



April 21, 2026

Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of Toronto City Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Via e-mail: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Re: Support for Agenda Item 2026.EC27.3 – City of Toronto Inclusive Economic Development Framework

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Council,

On behalf of United Way Greater Toronto (UWGT), I am writing to express our strong support for the adoption of the City of Toronto's Inclusive Economic Development Framework as part of *Sidewalks to Skylines: A 10-Year Action Plan for Toronto's Economy (2025–2035)*.

UWGT works alongside communities, employers, labour, and governments to reduce poverty and expand access to economic opportunity across Toronto. We welcome the City's clear recognition that economic strategies must move beyond intent and be deliberately designed to deliver tangible, measurable benefits for residents and neighbourhoods, particularly those that have been historically excluded from economic growth.

UWGT was pleased to participate on the Economic Advisory Panel for the City of Toronto's *Sidewalks to Skylines: An Action Plan for Toronto's Economy*, and later on the City's Inclusive Economic Development (IED) Working Table, contributing community-level and labour-market perspectives during the development of the Framework. This collaborative process helped ground the Framework not only in strong principles, but in practical considerations around how inclusive economic development can be operationalized through City levers and cross-sector partnerships.

From UWGT's perspective, the success of the Inclusive Economic Development Framework will ultimately be measured by how effectively it is actioned, and whether residents can see and feel its impact on the ground. This includes more people accessing good jobs, stronger pathways for local and diverse businesses, and investments that build lasting community wealth. The Framework's emphasis on cross-divisional coordination, accountability, and ongoing reporting is therefore critical to ensuring that strategy translates into real-world outcomes.

The Framework strongly aligns with UWGT's Inclusive Local Economic Opportunity (ILEO) work, which focuses on turning economic growth into concrete, place-based opportunity. Through ILEO, UWGT partners with employers, governments, community



organizations, and residents to strengthen local labour markets, connect people facing systemic barriers to quality employment, and ensure that economic investment produces visible neighbourhood-level results. The City's commitment to inclusive economic development creates meaningful opportunities to align and scale this on-the-ground work.

As City Council considers this item, UWGT encourages not only the adoption of the Inclusive Economic Development Framework, but a strong focus on implementation, resourcing, and partnership. We would welcome the opportunity to work closely with the City as this Framework is operationalized so that Torontonians across neighbourhoods can experience its benefits in practical and lasting ways.

UWGT looks forward to continuing our collaboration with the City of Toronto, building on our participation in the IED Working Table and through initiatives such as ILEO, to ensure that inclusive economic development is not only a policy commitment, but a reality for residents across Toronto.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Cheong", written over a light grey rectangular background.

Nation Cheong
Vice President, Community Impact and Mobilization
United Way Greater Toronto