



## **EC27.3 City of Toronto Inclusive Economic Development Framework**

April 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee and City Council,

The Toronto Community Benefits Network would like to congratulate the City of Toronto Economic Development and Social Development divisions on bringing forward the first Inclusive Economic Development Framework, which will be embedded within the City's broader economic strategy, Sidewalks to Skylines.

As an organization committed to advancing inclusive economic development and building community wealth in Toronto through decent work and community benefits in large-scale infrastructure and development projects, we agree with the pressing need for a paradigm shift in the City's approach to economic growth. With this framework in place, this step is essential to ensure ongoing alignment and coordination across City divisions and to advance various City initiatives.

### **Strengthening City Levers to Advance Community Wealth Building in Toronto**

The successes of the community benefits movement in Toronto, which have contributed to advancing inclusive local economic development over the past decade, have been through the leadership of City Council who have supported the utilization of City levers like procurement, development, land use and policy making to require community benefits expectations whenever the City buys, builds, provides financial incentives, makes decisions on land use and hosts major sporting events like FIFA Men's World Cup 2026.

We look forward to working with the City to strengthen these levers and tools which are essential to advancing community wealth building and inclusive economic development in Toronto.

### **Inclusive Economic Development in Land Use and Transit Planning**

TCBN supports the recommendation to identify opportunities to advance inclusive economic development in new or updated Secondary Plans. TCBN was a key stakeholder in advocating for the development of the Downsview Community Development Plan as part of the Secondary Plan process.



The Downsview Community Development Plan has uplifted the voices and priorities of Black and Indigenous communities, ensuring future development at Downsview includes affordable housing and commercial space, inclusive economic opportunities, business supports, community arts and culture and investments in community services and social infrastructure.

Furthermore, TCBN encourages the City to expand such strategies beyond Secondary Plans to areas facing significant growth and development, especially along transit corridors (current and pending priority transit expansion projects) as a proactive measure to prevent displacement, protect affordability, community and culture, enhance inclusive local economic development and bring local assets into community control.

### **Ongoing Monitoring and Engagement with Partners**

We would like to congratulate the Economic Development and Social Development divisions for bringing forward this foundational report and including the TCBN as part of the IED Working Group Table. We would also like to thank the co-chairs, City Councillor and Committee Chair Alejandra Bravo and Colette Murphy from the Atkinson Foundation, for their leadership, collaboration, and commitment in guiding this work over the past year.

As this Framework continues to be implemented, the TCBN would like to remain engaged in monitoring. This could also provide an opportunity for us to review its effectiveness and use, and to share suggestions for improvement.

We look forward to continued partnership in advancing this important framework and strengthening inclusive economic development outcomes for all Toronto communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosemarie Powell", written over a horizontal line.

Rosemarie Powell,  
Executive Director