

March 13, 2017

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1  
Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier,

We are writing to you with a proposal that would enable the Government of Ontario to realize the vital principle of community benefits enshrined in the *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act (2015)*. Please find enclosed a proposed Community Benefits Policy Framework for Ontario that has been developed collaboratively by Community Benefits Ontario, a broad network of Ontario nonprofits, foundations, labour groups, community organizations, municipal representatives and social enterprise leaders.

A community benefits policy framework is about achieving the “best value” in procurement so that our public investments can support multiple policy objectives at the same time. Implementing a community benefits policy framework can ensure that the \$160 billion invested in the Ontario Government’s twelve-year infrastructure plan—as well as federal infrastructure funding delivered in Ontario—can be *leveraged to maximize economic and social returns for Ontarians and their communities*. International evidence has shown that community benefit mechanisms are a promising public policy tool that improves the economic and social well-being of communities, especially low income and historically marginalized ones affected by large-scale infrastructure projects.

With your government well into the second half of its mandate amid a continuing era of focussed public investments, animating the community benefits principle as a critical part of the updated Long-Term Infrastructure Plan would provide a transformative tool to advance the *Building Ontario Up* agenda. Building on the success of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT Project Declaration that supports community benefits through infrastructure investment, Ontario can continue to demonstrate leadership in smart economic growth that benefits many, especially the most vulnerable individuals and communities.

We, the undersigned, are requesting a meeting with you to speak about the Community Benefits Policy Framework and to discuss how the Ontario Government can move forward with the implementation of community benefits mechanisms as a key part of delivering economic and social dividends through its infrastructure spending. A critical aspect of this discussion will be to seek clarification on the appropriate internal machinery that will be used to drive the development of a government-wide community benefits framework.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to a reply from your office. Please contact Colette Murphy, Executive Director, Atkinson Foundation, at 416-869-4588 or [cmurphy@atkinsonfoundation.ca](mailto:cmurphy@atkinsonfoundation.ca) to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,



Colette Murphy  
Executive Director  
Atkinson Foundation



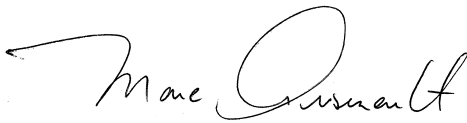
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Principal  
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Terry Cooke  
President & CEO  
Hamilton Community Foundation



Howard Elliott  
Chair  
Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction



Marc Arsenault  
Stakeholder Relations  
Ironworkers District Council of Ontario



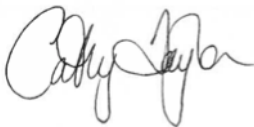
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Community Organizer  
Communities Organizing for Responsible Development  
Labour Community Services



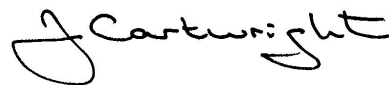
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Toronto Community Benefits Network



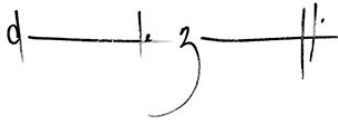
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CC: The Honourable Deb Matthews, Deputy Premier, Chair of Cabinet, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, Minister Responsible for Digital Government  
The Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Infrastructure  
The Honourable Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation  
Mr. Giles Gherson, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Growth, and Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Science