

July 26, 2017

The Honourable Bob Chiarelli, M.P.P.
Minister of Infrastructure
Hearst Block
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Dear Minister

We are pleased to see the Government of Ontario's ongoing progress to realize the vital principle of community benefits enshrined in the *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act (2015)*. Please find enclosed a submission made to the *Ministry of Infrastructure Consultation on the Long-Term Infrastructure Plan* related to community benefits. It follows on the *Community Benefits Policy Framework for Ontario* brief we provided to you on March 13, 2017. It 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.

The recommendations in this submission set out how community benefits can most effectively be included in the Long-term Infrastructure Plan (LTIP), understanding that they may also help inform the creation of the wider community benefits framework contemplated in Budget 2017.

Our objective is to help the government implement community benefits such that they become "business as usual" in infrastructure procurements, leading to more equitable and sustainable economic growth, social inclusion and shared prosperity. Our recommendations address how to include community benefits in the LTIP strategy; how an internal governance model could work; and how to begin implementing a community benefits program.

In an era of fiscal restraint, community benefits provides an opportunity for the government to leverage the dollars it is already spending on infrastructure to achieve boldly progressive social, economic and environmental outcomes, in accordance with the needs expressed by local communities.

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 if you'd like to arrange a meeting to discuss the recommendations in our submission further.

Yours sincerely



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Head Organizer
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Dina Graser
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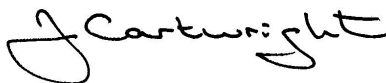
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