

To: Metrolinx Board Chair, Don Wright



Concern with the implementation of Community Benefits on the Ontario Line

November 27, 2024,

We wrote to you in the summer after Metrolinx and its contractors abandoned a promise to host a Moss Park job fair and we expressed concerns with missed opportunities. One of the tools in the contract that has been neglected thus far is the Community Benefits Working Groups, something that was supposed to be implemented shortly after the close of each Ontario Line contract, but still doesn't exist. You gave us assurance that this group would soon convene, but there hasn't been any progress here either.

These Working Groups are meant to ensure accountability for the roll out of the Community Benefits program for the Ontario Line. It still is not clear to us if any Moss Park residents have been able to access employment opportunities on this project. We asked this question at the October Construction Liaison Committee meeting and received no answer in November. At this meeting Metrolinx mentioned the important role that the Working Group will play, but still has no information about when these groups will meet, or what steps will be taken to make up for lost time.

We saw Metrolinx celebrate the success of its Community Benefits program in your last Board meeting, but we haven't felt like we were part of that. When we asked to see evidence of how Community Benefits have touched Moss Park, nothing was produced. Metrolinx staff took the time to get to know the neighbourhood and the challenges in connecting community with opportunity. You understand that you can hire new graduates by having job fairs at post secondary institutions, but we are being told that the only pathway for Moss Park community members is to apply through LinkedIn. Community Benefits should be centred in the areas most affected by construction, but Moss Park has been overlooked.

There is still a lot of work left on this project and a lot of time to get it right, but this will only happen if there is a cooperative relationship between the community, Metrolinx, and its contractors. We need to know when the Community Benefits Working Groups will convene, and what pathways will be created for local community members to access employment opportunities on the Ontario Line?

Regards,

Elena Taylor & David Anderson

Moss Park Coalition