



HAMILTON COMMUNITY BENEFITS NETWORK

building capacity through building communities



City of Hamilton GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE REVISED

Meeting #: 25-004

Date: March 19, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: Wednesday, March 19, 2025

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR C. KROETSCH

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Development of the Community Benefits Protocol or Social Value Framework

WHEREAS, Council did not approve the Budget amendment to spend an additional \$75,000 to continue the development of a Community Benefits Protocol or Social Value Framework during the 2025 Budget;

WHEREAS, staff recommended the use of an unallocated \$75,000 from the tax stabilization be used to pilot a Social Value Procurement program as a first step in developing a Community Benefits Protocol (Social Value Framework) that would guide the City of Hamilton in the corporation's social value/community benefits efforts;

WHEREAS, the development of a Community Benefits Protocol or Social Value Framework is foundational work and essential to the overall success of a pilot Social Value Procurement program; and,

WHEREAS, City staff have advised that the pilot Social Value Procurement program could be paused, and re-introduced for consideration as part of the 2026 budget process, in order to instead develop a Community Benefits Protocol or Social Value Framework in 2025.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That up to \$75 K from the Tax Stabilization Reserve (110046) be allocated to fund the development of the Community Benefits Protocol or Social Value Framework and that the consideration of a pilot Social Value Procurement be deferred pending completion of the Community Benefits Protocol or Social Value Framework.

Historic Background on Community Benefits Committee



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The concept of Community Benefits has been of interest to the City of Hamilton since 2018, when Council approved a motion to establish a Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee, supported by the Hamilton Community Benefits Network (HCBN). At that time, City staff were also investigating procurement-led Community Benefits and between 2018 and 2019, the City's Procurement Team piloted a series of procurement projects that utilized social value criteria in their Request for Proposals. Lacking the necessary staff resources and capacity, in addition to concerns over the projects, the pilot project model led by the Procurement Division did not continue past its initial phases, and projects that were part of the pilot were not monitored for social value outcomes.

The Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference were established in 2019, approved by Council in 2022, and amended by Council in 2023. The Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference indicate that the Committee's purpose is three-fold:

- To develop a protocol for the use and prioritization of Community Benefits Agreements in the City of Hamilton.
- To consider opportunities to include Social Procurement within publicly funded tenders.
- To create a venue to inform, connect and encouraged Community Benefits Agreements within the City.

The first Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee meeting was held on September 28, 2023.

How do we get more from the money we are already spending?



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Community Employment Benefits

What is social procurement?

Considering **social value** in the purchasing process, in addition to traditional factors such as price, quality and service. It considers the best value for our organization and best value for the community.

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What are Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs)?



CBAs are legally-binding contractual agreements negotiated between public or private institutions and contractors, unions, and community representatives working on larger public works projects.

City of Toronto – Community Benefits Timeline



Hamilton

We are Here!



Advancing the Community Benefits Framework

Economic Uncertainty for Hamilton/Canada



Toronto | News  

Job losses a ‘real’ prospect for Hamilton workers as tariffs on steel, aluminum come into effect: Horwath


By Codi Wilson



Int ▾

‘We’re ground zero’: Canada steel town is frontline of Trump’s tariff trade war

Trump trade war to sap Canadian, Mexican and U.S. growth, OECD says

By Reuters 
Updated: March 17, 2025 at 11:15AM EDT
Published: March 17, 2025 at 11:15AM EDT


Opinion | A stronger Canada starts with economic security for all

If we want people to rally behind Canada in this moment of crisis, we need to make sure they have something to rally for, Tom Cooper writes.

Updated Feb. 5, 2025 at 6:02 a.m. | Feb. 5, 2025 | 3 min read  



Politics
Canada hits U.S. with tariffs on \$29.8B worth of goods after Trump slaps levy on metals

Trump put a 25% tariff on Canadian steel and aluminum earlier this morning


 **John Paul Tasker** · CBC News · Posted: Mar 12, 2025 9:09 AM EDT | Last Updated: March 12

Threatened tariffs could take \$1-billion bite out of Hamilton economy: experts

Local manufacturers, businesses and farmers are braced for impacts ranging from production pauses to layoffs

Updated Feb. 1, 2025 at 8:32 p.m. | Jan. 31, 2025 | 3 min read   



‘It’s chaotic’: Hamilton feeling pressure from 25% steel tariffs in Canada-U.S. trade war  Video

MARCH 12, 2025

Hamilton, Canada’s largest steel producing city, is feeling pressure from the latest moves of this ongoing Canada-U.S. trade war. As Jaden Lee-

Thank You



Public-Policy Context

“Governments are seeking to maximize infrastructure spending and achieve multiple policy objectives by generating greater social and economic value with the same investment. One way to accomplish this is through community benefits: supplementary social and economic benefits for local communities leveraged by dollars already being spent, usually on major infrastructure and land development projects.” ²

D. Graser and N. Leanage, “Realizing Social and Economic Objectives through Infrastructure Planning and Investment,” Evergreen, May 19, 2017, 6,
<https://www.evergreen.ca/downloads/pdfs/2017/CommunityBenefitsReport.pdf>.