



TORONTO
BOARD OF TRADE

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IMPROVING INTEGRATION & ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF TORONTO'S LOW INCOME POPULATION

Toronto Board of Trade Discusses Business in the Need to Close Gaps in Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods in the GTA

TORONTO – (June 10, 2010) -- The Toronto Board of Trade released **Lifting All Boats, Promoting Social Cohesion and Economic Inclusion**. This discussion paper marks the launch of our third VoteToronto2010.com campaign theme: Promoting social cohesion and economic inclusion.

Board seeks to highlight, through a municipal government lens, that many of the issues of social cohesion and economic inclusion have importance to the business community and have significant economic impacts on the entire region's prosperity. There is a need to address Toronto and the GTA's growing economic disparity and disconnection in certain neighbourhoods.

"The Toronto region is rightly recognized as one of the world's best jurisdictions in which to live and work," says Carol Wilding, CEO of the Toronto Board of Trade. "However, there are still a number of issues affecting our productivity and growth. Our goal is to unite the efforts of the social and business sectors to identify the full scope of issues, and more importantly, recommendations. Our region's next elected municipal leaders must take a leadership role in ensuring all residents can contribute to a productive economy."

Issues like immigrant integration, housing and disadvantaged neighbourhoods are often viewed narrowly as social issues. The Board argues that it is crucial that these issues must also be viewed from a business perspective as they have significant economic impacts on the region's business environment, productivity and job creation.

"For our city to be truly great, it must be great for everyone," says Frances Lankin, President and CEO of United Way Toronto. "Growing economic disparity and the issue of social exclusion in our community cannot be treated as problems that are separate from the challenge of how we drive innovation and economic growth in the region. Our future collective prosperity depends on an integrated region that creates the conditions for successful newcomer integration and distributes opportunity more widely."

Increasing the economic success of individuals and creating stronger communities are crucial to the success of the region's business climate. This will help to attract skilled labour



TORONTO
BOARD OF TRADE

and investment and result in higher rates of employment, better educational outcomes, better health and lower crime rates.

Many organizations in the region - such as the United Way of Greater Toronto, the Maytree Foundation, the Wellesley Institute and the Toronto Community Foundation – are making great strides on the issues pertaining to these communities. The Board is joining other regional partners in putting a municipal focus on these issues, ensuring they become central to the municipal campaign debates.

As the third sub-theme of the Board's VoteToronto2010.com campaign, The Board is calling on municipal candidates to communicate what policies they would advance to close the gap in the disadvantaged neighbourhoods and improve those communities in the GTA that are not flourishing – a step that will ultimately improve the region's global competitiveness. The Board will bring forward its own suggestions as part of its broader suite of recommendations in September 2010.

About the Toronto Board of Trade (www.bot.com)

Founded in 1845, the Toronto Board of Trade is Canada's largest local chamber of commerce, connecting more than 200,000 business professionals and influencers throughout the Toronto region. The Board of Trade fuels the economic, social and cultural vitality of the entire Toronto region by fostering powerful collaborations among business, government, thought leaders and community builders. The Board of Trade plays a vital role in elevating the quality of life and global competitiveness of Canada's largest urban centre.

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