

Made in Canada Matters!

Why the City of Toronto Should Purchase 'Made In Canada' Products

Every year, the City of Toronto purchases over \$1 billion of goods—everything from uniforms to heavy equipment, mattresses, furniture, paper products and ambulances.

Recently some City Councillors think the City would be better off by having an open tender for these purchases so that all companies—from Canada and abroad—can bid on these contracts. These Councillors believe there may be some savings to the City's budget by purchasing cheaper goods abroad.

Buying from abroad hurts our communities

The reality is that off-shore contracts lead to a loss of good jobs. In fact, in the past year, Ontario has lost thousands of good paying manufacturing jobs due to globalization and off-shore purchasing.

- In Toronto today, one million workers earn \$29,800 or less per year. Many of these people are immigrants, women and people of colour. They are undervalued and underpaid.
- Our city and our diverse communities need good jobs. Too many people who work in full-time jobs are having to live and raise their children in poverty.
- While off-shore goods may save the City some money, the longer-term costs of poverty created by the loss of good jobs are significant for Toronto.
- This past May, a task force on income security warned that full-time workers living in poverty, combined with an inadequate social safety net, is 'a smouldering crisis for Toronto'. Toronto must bear the social costs when people cannot make a decent living.

Many immigrants have come to this country for a better future. And yet some City Councillors want to spend taxpayer's money and send good jobs abroad, instead of investing it in our own workers, their families and communities.

Why this issue has arisen- TTC Purchase

The TTC has an exclusive agreement with Bombardier to build 234 new subway cars at a cost of \$700 million at its plant in Thunder Bay.

- Twenty companies in the Toronto area are suppliers to the Thunder Bay Plant, as well as another 10 across the province. They provide good manufacturing jobs for thousands of working people.

- City Councillors such as Karen Stintz and Denzil Minan-Wong think the City should open up the contract to other bids, rather than have a 'sole-source' contract with Bombardier.
- Siemens, a German company, wants to bid on the project. It would produce all the TTC subway cars in China, which it says may result in some savings, but it would mean sending thousands of jobs overseas to China.

The TTC has a long-standing relationship with Bombardier that was part of a formal agreement between the province and the company. It makes good sense to continue to invest in the Thunder Bay plant, which is one of the last two remaining plants in Canada that produce rail and subway cars for customers such as the TTC and Go Transit.

What the TTC deal means for our economy

Mayor David Miller, the TTC and the labour movement believe it is important for the TTC to continue the relationship with Bombardier. The current contract will bring:

- An estimated 2,485 direct and indirect Ontario jobs over the next 4-5 years
- \$136 million in direct and indirect employment income for Ontarians
- \$51 million in Ontario tax revenues
- \$34 million in federal tax revenues

Sole-source contracts do not contravene international trade agreements like NAFTA. In fact, many American cities use them as part of a 'Build America' program to keep their communities and their local economies strong.

Made in Canada Matters

When the City purchase quality Canadian-made products, we all win.

- Good jobs are provided for our diverse workforces in Toronto.
- People have decent wages and benefits to raise their families.
- Good employment opportunities are provided for our youth.
- The communities where we live and work become better places to live.

That's the better way to a stronger city and healthier communities.

Please contact your local City Councillor and tell them that the TTC deal with the Thunder Bay plant is important in order to protect good jobs—for our workers, our families and our communities. Tell them Made in Canada Matters. Find your Councillor's contact information at www.toronto.ca/im/council/councillors.htm.

**Made in Canada:
The better way to a stronger Toronto**