

Buy Canadian - Build Communities Resolution

WHEREAS: Citizens expect their governments to spend wisely, invest in their communities and recognize that the creation of healthy communities, good jobs and a strong economy are the responsibility of all levels of government; and

WHEREAS: Canada's manufacturing sector is critical to the economy: it is highly productive, generates the highest value-added, accounts for two-thirds of our nation's total exports and funds three-quarters of all private sector research; and

WHEREAS: Unbalanced global trade and the uncontrolled surge in the Canadian dollar have resulted in downsizing, layoffs, bankruptcies, plant closures, and the relocation of production to off-shore locations and within North America; and

WHEREAS: Canada has lost 350,000 good manufacturing jobs over the past five years, 190 every day, and the pace of job loss is accelerating across the entire range of manufacturing activity, including: high-technology, resource-based and labour-intensive industries; and

WHEREAS: The loss of good manufacturing jobs has devastated workers, their families and entire communities from coast to coast, and severely limits quality job prospects for our children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS: Governments the world over, including those of our main trading partners, clearly understand the benefits of domestic purchasing rules including: the direct and spin-off employment created, taxes generated, and the environmental benefits of local sourcing; and

WHEREAS: International trade agreements signed by Canada specifically allow for domestic purchasing rules, including NAFTA and the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement; and

WHEREAS: There is urgent need for the largest investments in municipal infrastructure in more than a generation, recently estimated by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to total \$123 billion just for the maintenance of existing infrastructure, and a further \$115 billion to meet needs of our growing communities; and

WHEREAS: The Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters have called on the federal and provincial governments to introduce Canadian content rules; the Ontario Chamber of Commerce has called upon the Ontario government to introduce Canadian content rules; and a private members bill, M-183, calling for Canadian content rules has been introduced for debate in federal parliament.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that (Municipal Councils) will work to keep good jobs in our communities by:

1. Adopting a "Buy Canadian" policy for municipal purchases which includes:
 - requiring a minimum of 50% Canadian content and domestic final assembly in the purchase of public transit vehicles wherever possible;
 - requiring the purchase of goods and services with the highest possible level of Canadian content wherever possible;
 - requiring potential vendors to identify the source of goods and services, and the overall level of Canadian content, as part of the tendering process;
 - reporting annually to Council on the level of Canadian content in municipal purchases; and
 - Identifying opportunities to enhance the level of Canadian content in future purchases.

2. Calling on the federal, provincial and territorial governments to immediately enact "Buy Canadian" legislation applying to direct public purchases, and to grants and other funding provided to municipal governments.