

REPORT

Office of the Mayor

TO: Finance and Emergency Services Committee

FROM: Mayor Dave Barton

DATE: February 3, 2025

REPORT: 04/25 **FILE NO.:**

SUBJECT: Implementation of "Buy Canadian" Policy

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this report is to seek Committee's approval for the adoption of a "Buy Canadian" policy. This policy will prioritize Canadian suppliers and manufacturers for municipal procurement, encourage diversification of non-U.S. sources, and establish oversight mechanisms for any significant expenditures involving U.S. manufacturers. This initiative aligns with our commitment to supporting federal and provincial leaders, Canadian farmers, manufacturers, and the sovereignty of Canada. This policy shall work in tandem with the Township of Uxbridge's procurement policy.

DISCUSSION:

1. Prioritization of Canadian Suppliers:

Staff will be directed to prioritize the purchase of goods and services from Canadian manufacturers and suppliers whenever possible. This policy aims to bolster the Canadian economy, support local businesses, and contribute to sustainable procurement practices.

2. Non-U.S. Alternatives:

In situations where Canadian products or services are unavailable, staff will seek suppliers from countries other than the United States. This approach will diversify our supply chain, reduce dependency on U.S. manufacturers, and promote broader international trade relationships.

3. Approval Requirements for U.S. Purchases:

To ensure transparency and fiscal responsibility, the following approval thresholds will apply to any purchases from U.S. manufacturers:

- **Expenses Over \$1,000:** Any purchase exceeding \$1,000 must be approved by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), in consultation with the mayor and council as appropriate.

4. Support for Canadian Sovereignty:

This policy demonstrates our municipality's commitment to supporting federal and provincial leaders in their efforts to strengthen the Canadian economy. By prioritizing Canadian products, we are actively supporting:

- **Canadian farmers and agricultural producers**, ensuring the continued vitality of rural communities and food security.
- **Local and national manufacturers**, promoting job creation and innovation within Canada.
- **The sovereignty of Canada**, by reducing reliance on foreign suppliers and fostering economic independence.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

- **Good Governance:** Ensuring fiscal responsibility and transparency in procurement practices.
- **Economic Development:** Supporting local businesses, farmers, and manufacturers while contributing to Canada's economic sovereignty.
- **Sustainability:** Encouraging environmentally responsible and locally sourced procurement decisions.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report CAO-04/25 of Mayor Dave Barton be received for information;

AND THAT Committee direct staff to implement the "Buy Canadian" policy as outlined in this report;

AND THAT any purchases from U.S. manufacturers exceeding \$1,000 require CAO approval.

AND THAT a copy of Report CAO-04/25 be forwarded to the Finance and Emergency Services Committee for consideration.

AND THAT this policy will be in place until such time as there is clear indication from the Province and Feds that trade relations have been normalized.

AND THAT this policy be forward to all municipalities in Ontario and request they implement similar policies.

AND THAT this policy be forwarded to AMO and ROMA.

AND THAT this policy be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, MP O'Connell, Durham MPP's and appropriate Provincial ministers.

AND THAT we collaborate with North Durham Chamber of Commerce to implement the policy outlined above.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mayor Dave Barton