




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members of Council
DATE:	December 15, 2025
SUBJECT:	Progress to Date and Further Efforts Towards Strengthening Local Procurement and Resilience Amid U.S. Tariff Threats
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Tina Iacoe Director of Procurement Corporate Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this communication is to provide Council with an update on the City of Hamilton's "Buy Local. Buy Canadian." procurement strategy. On August 6, 2025, Council approved Report FCS25015(a) Strengthening Local Procurement and Resilience Amid U.S. Tariff Threats, implementing changes to the City's Procurement Policy to prioritize procuring goods and services from Canadian and non-U.S. businesses over U.S. businesses.

To implement these changes, the procurement policy has been updated, new FAQs and an operational manual have been prepared, and staff now have access to revised procedures and updated forms. Training sessions for staff involved in procurement have been conducted to promote a consistent application of the changes across the organization.

In addition to implementing these changes, staff had committed to reporting back to the General Issues Committee in Q4 2025 on the cost impacts of U.S. tariffs as well as the "re-orienting of our tendering and purchasing processes to build in the priority of sourcing steel and steel products from local companies first, and Canadian companies when necessary." Since that direction was issued, both the federal and provincial governments have communicated they too are implementing procurement-related changes further supporting a buy Canadian approach and that these changes are forthcoming. At the time of this Communications Update, it remains unclear whether these changes will have direct implications for municipalities; however, neither government has provided definitive information or processes to support or describe these forthcoming changes.

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In light of this uncertainty, staff has reached out to the federal and provincial governments to better understand both the Buy Canadian Policy and Bill 72, Buy Ontario Act and continues to participate and collaborate with other Ontario municipalities within the GTHA to ensure alignment in our actions and responses to these changes.

Given this evolving landscape, staff are advising that the subsequent report originally planned for Q4 2025 will be deferred until Q1 2026 to allow for consideration of any applicable senior-government direction or mandate to municipalities. Procurement staff will continue to monitor developments closely and keep Council informed as additional details become available.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact Tina Iacoe, Director of Procurement at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2796 or by email at Tina.Iacoe@hamilton.ca.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

[Report FCS25015\(a\) Strengthening Local Procurement and Resilience Amid U.S. Tariff Threats](#)