



September 28, 2026

BY EMAIL

The Honourable Victor Fedeli
Minister of Economic Development
College Park
777 Bay Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5
Email: MEDJCT.Minister@ontario.ca

Re: Implications of the *Buy Ontario Act*

At its Regular Council Meeting held on September 8, 2026, Council passed the following resolution:

R26-09-399

Moved By Deputy Mayor Shepley
Seconded By Councillor Allard

That the AMO Conference Recap presented by Deputy Mayor Shepley and Councillor McGuire-Blais be received; and

That Council direct Administration to send a letter to the Minister of Economic Development regarding the municipal implications of the Buy Ontario Act.

Carried

Further to the above, the Town acknowledges receipt of the letter from the Honourable Robert Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing dated September 15, 2026 in such regard.



We confirm the Town's intentions to apply the *Buy Ontario Act* (the "Act") to procurements but seek further clarity from the Province with regard to applying the Act. Understanding that municipalities throughout Ontario continue to apply the Act in different ways which has the effect of causing each municipality to incur different costs and each supplier to experience different approaches by each municipality, we look forward to further clarity from your office and the office of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding how municipalities should apply the Act.

We trust you will find this satisfactory. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Malandruccolo".

Joseph Malandruccolo
Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk
jmalandruccolo@essex.ca

cc. Hon. Robert Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing rob.flack@oc.ola.org

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel. 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. 416 585-7000



234-2026-3477

September 15, 2026

Dear Head of Council,

As we continue working together to protect Ontario workers and communities from President Trump's tariffs, I am writing to make clear our government's expectation that municipalities fully comply with Ontario's Buy Ontario policies and maximize the use of Ontario and Canadian goods and services in municipal procurement. In addition, we will be seeking to extend the Building Ontario Business Initiative (BOBI) to municipalities for good and services procurement.

American tariffs and anti-trade actions against Canadian imports are causing uncertainty for thousands of Ontario businesses and millions of Ontario workers. In response, Ontario has implemented strong procurement requirements that prioritize Ontario and Canadian goods and services in provincial and municipal procurement. These requirements ensure that every possible dollar of Ontario's more than \$30 billion in annual procurement, as well as our \$236 billion, 10-year infrastructure plan, supports Ontario and Canadian workers.

Ontario taxpayers expect municipalities to do the same. Ontario municipalities spend more than \$22 billion each year procuring goods and services. The Municipal Buy Ontario Procurement Directive requires municipalities, local boards and municipal services corporations to prioritize Ontario and Canadian products. In light of this latest round of tariffs and anti-trade actions against Canada, adherence to these requirements is not optional. It is an absolute must. Municipalities must use every available opportunity to prioritize Ontario and Canadian goods and services.

I appreciate that many municipalities are already taking steps to maximize their use of Ontario and Canadian content. Today, I am making clear your obligation, and that of your municipal leadership team, to closely review your supply chains, procurement practices and upcoming purchases to identify every opportunity to increase domestic procurement. This should include determining whether goods and services currently sourced from outside Canada can be replaced with Ontario or Canadian alternatives, including through the expanded application of BOBI.

Failure to comply with Buy Ontario requirements will force us to reconsider provincial funding made available to municipalities, in addition to other consequences under the Buy Ontario Act (Public Sector Procurement), 2025.

In the face of these unprecedented economic attacks against our province and country, we all have a responsibility to do everything within our control to protect our workers and communities. Following Buy Ontario procurement policies can make the difference for an Ontario company that might otherwise be forced to close its doors or lay off workers because of U.S. tariffs.

I welcome your continued partnership as we work together as a united Team Canada to stand up for our province and country and protect Ontario workers and families.

Your Chief Administrative Officer will also receive correspondence outlining our government's expectations that municipal administrations identify further opportunities to increase domestic procurement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Flack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hon. Robert J. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: The Hon. Stephen Crawford, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement