

“Buy Canadian” policy at the City of Greater Sudbury: Board of Directors’ meeting March 18, 2009

MOVED THAT the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce not change its position of opposition to a “Buy Canadian” policy for the City of Greater Sudbury.....**CARRIED.**





February 13, 2009

Ms Agnes Beck
Manager of Supplies and Services
City of Greater Sudbury
P O Box 5000, Stn A
Sudbury, ON P3A 5P3

Dear Ms Beck

On behalf of the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce I wish to thank you for your attendance at our Advocacy Committee meeting on February 5th, 2009. We sincerely appreciate your request for the Chamber's input into your research on the establishment of a "Buy Canadian" policy for the City of Greater Sudbury.

As you mentioned, the Sudbury Chamber had previously indicated to your predecessor, Darryl Mathe, that it did not support the establishment of a "Buy Canadian" policy for the City. We understand the majority of the City's purchasing is conducted within Northern Ontario, making such a policy redundant. As well, a "Buy Canadian" policy may be in contravention of existing trade agreements. We expect the City's purchasing policies and activities to be conducted in a manner which provides the best return for the taxpayers. In addition, if Greater Sudbury were seen to be implementing an exclusionary policy, the Sudbury business community could similarly suffer from being excluded from opportunities elsewhere.

Following your discussion with the Advocacy Committee, the committee determined it will not recommend any changes to our position, and will be communicating this to our Board of Directors.

Once again, please accept our thanks for seeking the business community's input in preparation for your report to City Council and for attending the Advocacy Committee meeting. We look forward to a continuing dialogue with your office.

Yours truly

Brian R. Gatien
CHAIR