
City of Toronto Social Procurement Policy:

Pioneering Social Procurement in Canada

Supporting People

Connecting Businesses

Strengthening Communities

Aboriginal Employment Strategy

In February 2014, City Council requested staff to explore options for amending City procurement processes and policies to encourage and/or require Aboriginal hiring for City contracts, and report on progress made to the Aboriginal Affairs Committee.

Toronto Social Procurement Policy

In May 2013, Council directed staff to report back on a Toronto Social Procurement Policy, inclusive of best practices, a viable approach to targets and thresholds and benchmarks, for consideration by the end of 2015.

What is Social Procurement?

- The use of procurement processes for goods and services to advance positive economic, workforce and social development goals.
- In a City of Toronto context, social procurement means that the City will use its purchasing power to promote social or economic outcomes such as training youth from disadvantaged or racialized communities to provide opportunities for skills training that they would not otherwise have.

Benefits of Social Procurement

Best Overall Value for Money:

- ✓ Competitive rate bidding
- ✓ Leverage limited public resources for strategic city-building outcomes
- ✓ Increase job and training opportunities
- ✓ Increase number of employers working to promote workforce development
- ✓ Increase supply chain diversity

Social Procurement is happening around the world



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Two Main Forms of Social Procurement

Workforce Development

The goal of workforce development is to promote a skilled and competitive workforce and a vibrant local economy.

Supply Chain Diversity

The goal of supply chain diversity is increase the number of diverse-owned businesses bid and are awarded City contracts.

Pilot Projects

- The City is running pilot projects beginning in Spring 2014 to test the effectiveness of various workforce development and supply chain diversity approaches.
- Larger contract pilots (from \$50K to over \$1M) are planned to include a range of contracts such as painting, demolition, renovation, construction, design/architecture, engineering consulting, and mechanical litter removal.
- For small contracts (i.e. under \$50K), the City is piloting an initiative to open up the purchasing process to a wider vendor base than the current process allows. This approach will be piloted in a City division by posting its contract opportunities online.

Consultation

- The City will also be consulting with various networks, associations and vendors.



- The consultation will be to discuss both workforce development and supply chain diversity approaches.
- In supply chain diversity, the consultation will also focus on the barriers businesses have with doing business with the City.

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