



Media Release

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SUPPORT FOR MANUFACTURING JOBS MADE IN ONTARIO

The Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce is working with the City of Thunder Bay and Business leaders to lobby for a Made in Ontario policy for the new billion-dollar light rail vehicle contract. “When our tax dollars are being spent on the manufacturing of light rail vehicles we need to understand all of the implications to our province; the manufacturing jobs, the income taxes, countless suppliers, the value of growing our emerging technologies as well as the tax benefits all levels of governments receive,” stated Brian Babcock, Chair of the Board, “All other G8 countries recognize this by employing policies that implement local content in projects that use public funding.”

“It’s not a well known fact that provincial manufacturers and suppliers face an uphill battle when bidding for projects against competitors from other countries. Many countries employ government policies encouraging or dictating local content levels. The United States, which represents 90% of the North American passenger rail market, has a Buy America Act, which imposes strict regulations for local content. In the area of manufacturing rail vehicles, they require that 60% of all components used for manufacturing come from the United States as well as final assembly,” stated Mary Long-Irwin, President, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce. “We are asking for 25% Provincial content and Final Assembly here in Ontario. This will benefit all of Ontario and provide jobs in the manufacturing sector. We want the best value for our public dollars.”

The Chamber of Commerce, working with Minister Gravelle and local MPP Bill Mauro made calls to David Ramsay who will provide a report on manufacturing in the province of Ontario. “It was a very positive phone conversation” stated Long-Irwin. Calls were also made to the Toronto Mayors office and to the Toronto Transit Commission to ask for “Final Assembly” in Ontario.

“This is an issue that impacts Canadian manufacturers and suppliers nationwide. The businesses that provide jobs and economic impacts in the communities across the country face restrictions when dealing with foreign markets but have no similar considerations when competing for contracts at home. There should be policies in place that encourage use of Ontario-based expertise and provide jobs for our provincial economy”, stated Babcock.

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