



Media Release

For Immediate Release

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GREAT NEWS FOR BOMBARDIER AND THE CITY OF THUNDER BAY

The Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce is very pleased with the latest news regarding the bid for the TTC Light Rail Vehicle. Montreal's Bombardier has won a massive contract worth \$1.23-billion to build the next generation of Toronto's streetcars. The new low-floor fleet, air conditioned and accessible to the disabled, will gradually replaced the existing cars, which date from the late 1970s and early 1980s and are nearing the end of their natural lives. The first cars should roll into service by 2012. The contract must still be formally voted on Monday by the nine city councillors that oversee the Toronto Transit Commission.

"The contract of 204 cars is the biggest light-rail vehicle purchase in Toronto and in North America. This was so important to Thunder Bay - we are very pleased," stated Board Chair, Lisa Sticca, "This is a great win for all of us."

The Chamber, along with the City of Thunder Bay, Mayor Lynn Peterson, Minister Michael Gravelle and MPP Bill Mauro worked behind the scenes for well over a year. "It was important for everyone to understand that when our tax dollars are being spent on the manufacturing of light rail vehicles, we need to realize 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 Mary Long-Irwin, President, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, "All other G8 countries recognize this by employing policies that implement local content in projects that use public funding. This is about getting the best value for our tax dollars."

We support the province in its endeavours to grow manufacturing jobs in Ontario. Thanks to local MPP Bill Mauro and Minister Michael Gravelle, this government has taken a leadership role by providing a mandatory Canadian content when it comes to publicly funded manufacturing of light rail vehicles. We will continue to ask for Final Assembly here in Ontario, in addition to the Canadian content. This will benefit all of Ontario and provide jobs in the manufacturing sector. We need the best value for our public dollars," stated Long-Irwin.

Sticca added, "Great news for Thunder Bay, thanks to all of those that worked so hard to make this happen."

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