

Motion to Establish Social Procurement Practices

Moved by: Councillor Lee

Seconded by: Councillor Crawford

That we recommend to Regional Council:

Whereas the impact of American tariffs has resulted in a strengthened call for modernization in municipal procurement processes to reflect current economic and social realities;

And Whereas every purchase the Region makes has a social, economic, cultural, and environmental impact;

And Whereas social procurement is a holistic approach to strategic social, economic, environmental, and inclusive goals that drive positive community outcomes through the strategic use of procurement policies and practices;

And Whereas social procurement still requires that equal opportunity be provided to all vendors and does not provide preferential treatment, in that competitive pricing must still be provided;

And Whereas the City of Toronto, City of Pickering, and City of Calgary are among those who have successfully executed social procurement practices, leading to beneficial outcomes for both the community and the economy;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That:

1. Staff be directed to investigate the implementation of a social procurement program, with a focus on:
 - a. Prioritizing inclusion and diversity in our supply chain and the business practices of our suppliers;
 - b. Promoting that our suppliers be good corporate citizens through social equity, climate sustainability and community development practices;
 - c. Including local economic development and employment targets or goals that support Durham Region residents to work in the Region; and
 - d. Supporting local businesses when possible, by continuing to prioritize purchasing for below trade agreement thresholds;
2. Staff establish a process for businesses to become a diverse or sustainable supplier with the Region, including holding education sessions on achieving certification from non-profit and accredited supplier organizations;
3. Staff report back to the council with their recommendations within one year; and
4. Staff share their findings and outcomes with lower-tier municipalities to align procurement practices across the Region.