

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Procurement Options

WHEREAS the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and the New West Partnership Trade Agreement have been established as domestic trade agreements;

AND WHEREAS these trade agreements are restrictive as they relate to procurement process and do not consider opportunities or options for local sourcing by municipalities;

AND WHEREAS local sourcing could be beneficial for a number of Alberta municipalities as they would be supporting their own economy;

AND WHEREAS local sourcing would allow that local contractors that pay taxes and employ local people be given priority based on pricing, capacity and capabilities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo strongly urge the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association to lobby the provincial government to consider options that would permit greater opportunities for local sourcing when negotiating trade agreements.

BACKGROUND:

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is looking for an opportunity to support local economy by reviewing local sourcing options within its procurement processes. One option to meet this initiative would be that a municipality, when contracting out and awarding projects, could increase the amount of dollars spent within the community if local contractors could be given priority based on pricing, capacity and capabilities.

Local sourcing could increase the amount of dollars spent within the individual municipalities, thereby supporting the local business community.

Trade agreements which govern procurement processes, are negotiated at the provincial and federal governments therefore, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, representing Alberta municipalities, is a natural conduit to lobby the respective governments for support in this initiative.