

September 17, 2026

**The Honourable Doug Ford**

**Premier of Ontario**

Queen's Park, Room 281

Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Dear Premier Ford,

We are writing on behalf of the Toronto and Area Road Builders Association ([TARBA](#)), the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association ([GTSWCA](#)), the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association ([OSWCA](#)), the Heavy Construction Association of Toronto ([HCAT](#)), and the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario ([RCCAO](#)) to request an urgent meeting with you and leaders from Ontario's infrastructure constructions sector regarding the Buy Ontario Procurement Directive.

Our organizations represent more than a thousand civil construction companies employing tens of thousands of construction workers, hundreds of companies that manufacture and distribute construction supplies to the industry every year, and the union partners that help build Ontario's critical infrastructure.

We support the government's objectives of ensuring public procurement creates real opportunity for Ontario's contractors, suppliers, manufacturers, and workers. The objective is right, but the current approach is not.

As implemented, Buy Ontario is adding a new layer of red tape, cost, and uncertainty for the Ontario businesses it is supposed to support. Contractors and suppliers are being required to provide detailed supply-chain and domestic-content information repeatedly for every tender they bid on. Municipalities are left to develop their own forms, requirements, thresholds, and interpretations of the directive.

The result leads to different requirements from municipality to municipality, duplicative paperwork, higher compliance costs, and less certainty for bidders. Instead of making it easier for Ontario businesses to compete for Ontario public work, the current system is creating new barriers to participation, especially for small and medium sized businesses.

We have raised these concerns with other Ministries and have put forward a practical solution: a province-wide pre-qualified list of Ontario contractors, suppliers, products, and material sources. Once a supplier, contractor, or product has been reviewed and verified, municipalities and bidders should be able to rely on that information across procurements.

Ontario already has the building blocks. The Ministry of Transportation uses Designated Sources for Materials, and Supply Ontario maintains a centralized Vendor of Record arrangements. Even municipalities maintain pre-qualified suppliers lists that can be used to further support local businesses. The Province does not need to create another complex system. It needs to use the system it already has to make Buy Ontario workable.

We are requesting a roundtable with you and a small group of sector leaders from Ontario's roadbuilding, sewer, watermain and construction communities. These businesses can speak directly to how the current directive is affecting tendering decisions, increasing administrative costs, creating uncertainty, and making it harder for Ontario firms to compete for Ontario public work.

Reform is needed urgently. Without a clearer and more consistent framework, Buy Ontario will continue to punish the businesses it was intended to support and add avoidable costs to municipal infrastructure procurement.

We respectfully request an opportunity to hold this roundtable with you at your earliest convenience. We would welcome the ability to work with your office to identify participants and provide practical and workable solutions that allow Buy Ontario to deliver real benefits to Ontario businesses.

Sincerely,



**Raly Chakarova**  
Executive Director  
TARBA



**Patrick McManus**  
Executive Director  
GTSWCA & OSWCA



**Peter Smith**  
Executive Director  
HCAT



**Nadia Todorova**  
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