

Procurement Policies

- The Ontario government's procurement policies require that:
 - Goods contracts valued at \$25,000 or more and service and construction contracts valued at \$100,000 or more must use open competition.
 - Consulting contracts, of any value, must use competitive tendering.
- Open competitive procurements are advertised by the Ontario government.
- Ministries and agencies must use an electronic tendering system to advertise any open competitive procurements of goods valued at \$25,000 or more and services valued at \$100,000 or more. All ministries use **BravoSolution** as their designated electronic tendering system.
- The Ontario government is committed to trade agreements that allow Ontario vendors to have access to procurement opportunities within and outside of Canada. To ensure Ontario vendors have equal access to opportunities outside Ontario, Ontario does not apply any local preferences in its procurements.

Ontario is a party to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between Ontario and Quebec (**OQTCA**) and the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (**CFTA**) and have obligations to international trade treaties such as the World Trade Organization – Agreement on Government Procurement (**WTO-GPA**), Canada European Union Comprehensive Trade Agreement (**CETA**), and the recently signed Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (**CPTPP**). The CPTPP will take effect when ratified expected by the end of 2018.

Some of these trade agreements now cover other public sector organizations (municipalities, schoolboards, publicly-funded academic, health, social service entities) and for the first time will be subject to the commitments under these agreements.

The Ontario government continues to be committed to promoting free trade and strengthening access for Ontario vendors to other markets, and this is reflected by other international trade treaties that are currently under review.

- The Ontario government encourages environmentally responsible purchases. Environmental factors are given consideration in procurement decisions for all contracts worth more than \$10,000.
- Ministries must comply with the **Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001** and the **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005** and its standards when acquiring goods, services and facilities.

- Ontario government employees managing procurements and contracts are not allowed to receive a benefit of any kind, directly or indirectly, from any vendor. Vendors must not have any conflict of interest that may give them an unfair advantage in bidding on government contracts.
- The Ontario government is committed to open, fair and transparent procurement processes. Vendors bidding on Ontario government contracts may request debriefings to understand how their proposal was evaluated and to learn how to improve their future proposals.