

**Buy Ontario Procurement Directive**

The Province’s Buy Ontario Procurement Directive (BOPD) introduces a significant shift in public sector procurement. It requires government and Broader Public Sector (BPS) organizations to prioritize Ontario and Canadian suppliers, strengthen domestic supply chains, and reduce reliance on foreign (particularly U.S.) businesses.

The Directive consolidates;

- Building Ontario Businesses Initiative (BOBI), effective Apr 1, 2024
- Procurement Restriction Policy (US businesses), effective Mar 4, 2025
- New strategic procurement requirements for capital infrastructure and light-duty fleet vehicles

Although the new BOPD came into effect on Apr 13, 2026, the University has been operating in compliance with the underlying policies since their respective effective dates, and our current procurement practices already align with the Directive. Changes under BOPD will be rolled out between now and October 2026, with communications and change management activities to follow.

**Tri-Agency Buy Canadian Policy**

In parallel, the Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC) has updated the Guidelines to Financial Administration (TAGFA) to reference the federal Buy Canadian Policy, encouraging institutions and grant recipients to prioritize Canadian suppliers and Canadian content in Tri-Agency funded procurement activities, where appropriate.

**Coming Changes**

Depending on the value of the procurement, different domestic preference rules apply as follows;

- **All Procurements Over \$139K** - Purchasing Services will manage new requirements that include granting preference to Canadian businesses.

NOTE FOR RESEARCH – **only** Tri-Agency funded procurements over \$25M (\$5M effective June 15, 2026) include additional requirements.

- **Fleet Vehicles** – for all purchases of light-duty fleet vehicles institutions must prioritize Made in Ontario (MIO) vehicles or consider vehicles from Ontario Vehicle Producers (OVP).
- **Capital Infrastructure (Any Value)** - all capital infrastructure procurements may require a Domestic Supply Chain Plan and weighted local content criteria. Purchasing Services is working closely with OUPPMA, legal counsel and subject matter experts in Physical Resources to operationalize new requirements.

**Procurement Frameworks**

BPS Procurement Directive - governs how procurement is conducted.

Buy Ontario Directive - establishes domestic preference, supply chain, and strategic requirements.

**Domestic Preference Thresholds & Requirements**

<b>Domestic Preference Thresholds &amp; Requirements</b>	
Below \$139K (currently \$121K)	Preference for Ontario businesses
\$139K - \$368K	Preference for Canadian businesses
Over \$368K	Apply weighted domestic evaluation criteria
Over \$5M	Potential Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) requirements
<b>Strategic Requirements – no threshold</b>	
Capital Infrastructure	Mandatory Domestic Supply Chain Plans & weighted criteria
Fleet Vehicles	Tiered procurement approach

### What This Means For Departments

- Engage Purchasing Services early, especially for higher-value or research-funded purchases
- Plan to request additional documentation for supplier selection, exceptions may be required
- Continue following competitive procurement requirements under the Purchasing Policy
- Keep clear records on purchasing decisions to support audit and provincial reporting

**The University may be required to report certain Buy Ontario outcomes to the province to demonstrate compliance.**

### More Information Is Coming

Purchasing Services is developing tools, templates, and guidance to support implementation of the Buy Ontario Procurement Directive and Buy Canadian expectations. We recognize the complexity of these new requirements and will continue to share updates as further provincial guidance becomes available.

### Implementation Approach

#### Short-Term - Awareness & Fleet Vehicle Compliance

Build awareness and reinforce requirements.

Ensure compliance with Fleet Vehicle Policy

Leverage existing tools (e.g., non-Ontario and U.S. Business Exemption Form) to support alignment with directive intent.

#### Medium-Term– Capital Infrastructure Policy Compliance, 2026) – Capital Infrastructure Policy Compliance

Implement Domestic Supply Chain Plan requirements.

Incorporate domestic weighting/commitments into evaluation approaches.

Update templates, governance, and training.

#### Longer-Term (by October 1, 2026) – Full Alignment

Standardize domestic procurement approaches across all activities.

Update templates, exemption processes, and supporting tools.

### Next Steps

Further information will be released by Purchasing Services as implementation progresses.

Questions should be directed to [purchasing.helpdesk@uoquelfh.ca](mailto:purchasing.helpdesk@uoquelfh.ca)