

Tri-Agency TAGFA Buy Canada Update

Recent communication has been sent out from the Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC), referencing the federal government's Buy Canadian Policy and strongly encouraging institutions and its grant holders to take reasonable steps to prioritize Canadian suppliers in procurement activities wherever possible.

In parallel, the Province has released a new Buy Ontario Procurement Directive and a revised Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive, both of which will impact procurement activities moving forward.

The Buy Ontario Procurement Directive reinforces previous direction by emphasizing the prioritization of Ontario and Canadian suppliers at certain thresholds and consolidates previous requirements under the Building Ontario Businesses Initiative Act (BOBIA) and the Provincial Procurement Restriction on U.S. Businesses.

Purchasing Services is reviewing the recently released materials and collaborating with the Ontario University Professional Procurement Management Association (OUPPMA) and the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) to align existing policies and obligations under applicable trade agreements. The Province has provided a short implementation timeline, with additional guidance expected.

In the meantime, no changes to current procurement practices are required. Purchasing Services recommends continuing to prioritize Ontario Businesses for all purchases under the open competitive procurement threshold, consistent with the approach under BOBIA and the Provincial Procurement Restriction on U.S. Businesses. For research-related purchases exceeding the open competitive procurement threshold, please contact Purchasing Services.

These changes impact only Tri-Agency funded procurements with a value of over \$5M and may include additional requirements.

Further updates will be shared as we move through implementation. Questions should be directed to purchasing.helpdesk@uoguelph.ca