CDAO
Construction & Design Alliance of Ontario

Sent electronically

October 16, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Queen's Park, Room 281
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Buy Ontario Procurement Directive — Support for Joint Industry Letter

On behalf of the Construction and Design Alliance of Ontario (CDAO), we are writing in support of the enclosed joint industry letter dated September 17, 2026, regarding the implementation of the Buy Ontario Procurement Directive.

CDAO brings together organizations across Ontario's design and construction sector to provide a unified voice in building a better Ontario. Our mission is to promote livable, sustainable, and marketable communities while championing innovative infrastructure projects across the province. Fair, competitive, and efficient procurement is essential to achieving this mission.

CDAO supports the government's objective of creating meaningful opportunities for Ontario contractors, designers, suppliers, manufacturers, and workers. However, the concerns outlined in the joint letter demonstrate the need for a clearer and more consistent approach to implementation.

Repeated requests for detailed supply-chain and domestic-content information, combined with differing municipal requirements, thresholds, and interpretations, create administrative burdens and uncertainty for firms bidding on public projects. These challenges can increase costs, discourage participation, and make it more difficult for Ontario businesses to compete for the work this policy is intended to support.

Our sector also needs clear and consistent criteria for establishing and verifying Ontario or Canada-based status, so that procurement decisions are transparent and businesses compete on a fair basis.

A predictable, coordinated procurement framework would help project partners anticipate requirements, timelines, and costs while advancing the government's objectives. The province-wide prequalification approach proposed in the enclosed letter warrants consideration as a practical means of reducing duplicate submissions and providing reliable information across procurements.

CDAO therefore joins the signatory organizations in requesting a roundtable with your government to discuss these concerns and identify workable solutions. We would welcome the opportunity to contribute perspectives from across the design and construction sector, ensuring that implementation supports the timely and cost-effective delivery of Ontario's infrastructure.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to working with your government to help Buy Ontario deliver meaningful benefits for Ontario businesses, workers, and communities.

Sincerely,



Andrew Hurd
Chair
Construction and Design Alliance of Ontario

Enclosure: Joint Industry Letter to the Premier — September 17, 2026

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	**Patrick McManus**	**Peter Smith**	**Nadia Todorova**
Executive Director	Executive Director	Executive Director	Executive Director
TARBA	GTSWCA & OSWCA	HCAT	RCCAO