

From: Mary Long Irwin [mailto:maryli@tb-chamber.on.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2005 4:05 PM
To: mayor_miller@toronto.ca
Subject: Manufacture of TTC cars

Hello Mayor Miller

I am writing this letter in part as a response to TTC vice-chairman Joe Mihevc "It's not our job for the City of Toronto to save Thunder Bay" (\$750M deal could cost Thunder Bay, Toronto Sun, June 16/05). I do agree that it is not the job of Toronto to save Thunder Bay, however, I do believe it is the job of each and every one of us here in Ontario to make sure that we get full value of our tax dollars. When our tax dollars are being spent on the manufacturing of subway cars we need to understand the provincial and federal implications of a \$40 Million payroll. We need to collectively convince the government to institute policies that support our industries in its early growth technologies, allow industry to compete in a fair environment, provide for a "Buy Canadian policy" similar to other countries including the USA. Provide for an environment so our industries may develop into leaders that others will find difficult to overcome. There are significant spin-off technologies from which sustainable competitive advantages can materialize and thus result in increased productivity to our Ontario economy.

I was at a dinner, in Toronto last week, with approximately 35 major suppliers for the manufacturing of rail and subway cars. I was very impressed by the significant impact to these businesses and the direct jobs created by being a supplier to Bombardier. I was also surprised that most of them were from the Toronto area. As with any such type contract it is understood that approximately one half of the contract covers goods and supplies. This would also have impact on both jobs and the economy of Ontario. I was also assured that the pricing would remain competitive as well as on-time delivery.

I am asking for your support that the manufacturing and refurbishing of all street and rail cars be retained within our province, at least in the short term. This will provide us the time to negotiate a more competitive playing field and look to utilizing this plant as a "Centre of Excellence" in training.

Thank you for your time and again, I am looking for your support on this issue. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. I have also enclosed some additional DRAFT arguments to issue.

Thanks again
Mary

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