

madeincanadaBIZ.com

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Q&A

Q: What is madeincanadaBIZ.com all about?

A: madeincanadaBIZ.com is a coalition of concerned business, community and labor organizations that have come together to raise awareness about the benefits of spending Canadian taxpayer dollars with Canadian businesses.

Q: Who can join?

A: Any organization with an interest and commitment to strengthening the Canadian economy.

Q: Why are you doing this?

A: To showcase the depth and breadth of Canadian business and its skilled workforce.

Q: Doesn't Canada or Ontario already have a policy to ensure Canadian content in manufacturing?

A: In fact, Canada is one of the very countries in the world that has no regulations stipulating local content. In the U.S. or example, there are strict local content regulations in the public transportation field. The "Buy America" Act requires that 60 per cent of components used to manufacture rolling stock must come from the U.S. and final assembly must be performed in that country as well. In Mexico, if 50 per cent of the contract is executed in Mexico, then a 10 per cent discount is given to the manufacturer.

Q: Are there major industries currently at risk in Northern Ontario as a result of this policy gap?

A: Canadian businesses competing in the transportation sector now find themselves at a real disadvantage on their home territory as neither federal or provincial authorities have established minimal requirements for Canadian content when public funds are used. One such example is the Bombardier manufacturing facility located in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Q: How many jobs are at stake and what would be the impact to the economy if this plant were to close?

A: The current employee base is approximately 400 employees with an annual payroll in excess of \$15 million. What's more, if the cities of Ottawa and Toronto, who are expanding their transit rail systems, were to build their vehicles at this plant, the workforce would increase to nearly 1000 with a payroll in excess of \$40 million. Without this new work however, this plant is in jeopardy of major layoffs as early as April 2006.

Q: How can I get involved?

A: Join the on-line community at www.madeincanadaBIZ.com. Let your views be known in the forum. Let your elected officials know this issue is important.