

ON TABLE ITEM

Date: Feb 18, 2025
Meeting: GP
Item: 2

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting of Richmond City Council held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

From: Biason, Evangel
Sent: February 18, 2025 12:29 PM
To: Biason, Evangel
Subject: FW: On table information

From: "Au,Chak" <CAu@richmond.ca>
Date: February 18, 2025 at 12:04:49 PM PST
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Subject: On table information

Additional Information on the motion

In response to the recent trade tensions and the imposition of tariffs by the United States, several municipalities across British Columbia have taken steps to adjust their procurement policies to support local businesses and reduce reliance on American goods.

Vancouver: On February 11, 2025, the Vancouver City Council unanimously passed a motion directing city staff to urgently review all capital projects, suppliers, procurement practices, and trade agreement exposures through a “Buy Local/Buy Canadian” lens. The objective is to develop immediate and long-term strategies that support local businesses and align with national efforts to counteract foreign policies detrimental to the Canadian economy and sovereignty.

In addition to the procurement policy review, the motion mandates the launch of a “Buy Local/Buy Canadian” campaign and the establishment of an internal roundtable to respond swiftly to tariffs and supply chain disruptions. City staff are also tasked with exploring temporary business relief measures, such as permit fee reductions and property tax deferrals, to support local businesses during this period of economic uncertainty.

Victoria: On February 13, 2025, Councillor Dave Thompson introduced a motion for city staff to explore options to avoid purchasing U.S. goods and services, particularly from states supporting the tariffs. The motion also suggested moving away from certain social media platforms and emphasized the importance of diversifying and strengthening the local economy.

Surrey: Mayor Brenda Locke announced the cancellation of a \$740,000 contract with a U.S.-based company, embracing the notion of buying Canadian in light of the tariff threats.

Delta: Councillor Dylan Kruger proposed a motion urging the provincial government to amend procurement legislation, allowing municipalities to prioritize Canadian businesses in their procurement processes.

Burnaby: Mayor Mike Hurley directed city staff to adopt a “buy local and buy Canadian” approach, seeking ways to adjust the city’s procurement policies to support local businesses.

Maple Ridge: On February 11, 2025, the City Council unanimously adopted an action plan aimed at enhancing local economic resilience and supporting Canadian businesses. This plan

includes updating municipal procurement policies to prioritize Canadian-made goods and services, while ensuring compliance with existing trade agreements. Additionally, the city is conducting a cross-departmental review to identify alternative sources for goods and services currently sourced from the U.S., focusing on buying Canadian.

These actions reflect a broader movement among Canadian municipalities to reassess procurement strategies, aiming to bolster local economies and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers in response to international trade challenges.

Aligning Richmond's policies with this approach would not only bolster local businesses but also demonstrate solidarity with provincial and national efforts to safeguard Canada's economic interests