

**EXECUTIVE BOARD STATEMENT TO THE
TORONTO & YORK REGION LABOUR COUNCIL
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2005**



Made in Canada Matters!

Every year, the City of Toronto purchases over \$1 billion of goods—everything from uniforms to heavy equipment, mattresses, furniture, paper products and ambulances. The TTC is now replacing its aging fleet of buses, streetcars and subway trains, and is negotiating with Bombardier for 234 new subway cars.

However, two conservative Councillors are trying to derail this deal by demanding that a tendering process be opened up to allow German multinational Siemens to bid. They claim that taxpayers could save money if these cars could be built in China.

Labour Council held an emergency meeting of industrial affiliates to tackle this issue head on. Together with CAW, USW, CEP, UNITE HERE and the CLC, we have launched a campaign entitled “Made in Canada Matters”. On Tuesday, June 27th over a hundred union activists rallied at City Hall to demand that the Bombardier purchase continue as planned, and to challenge those people like Councillors Stintz and Minan-Wong who seem to think that Canadian jobs are worthless.

For Canada Day, we placed full-page ads in community newspapers calling for a made-in-Canada policy as a priority for the City. Ontario has lost thousands of good paying manufacturing jobs in recent months, and it is time to stand up to those who think that shipping our jobs off-shore is an acceptable practice.

The Bombardier deal is worth:

- An estimated 2,485 direct and indirect Ontario jobs over the next 4-5 years
- \$136 million in direct and indirect employment income for Ontarians
- \$51 million in Ontario tax revenues, and \$34 million in federal tax revenues

American cities all subscribe to a ‘Build America’ program for transit vehicles. There is no reason for any Canadian city not to invest in their communities and their local economies. The Toronto policy on Canadian procurement still sits in limbo, however, after two attempts by bureaucrats to have it scrapped because it may offend NAFTA.

When our governments purchase quality Canadian-made products, we all win.

- Good jobs are provided for our diverse workforce
- People have decent wages and benefits to raise their families.
- Good employment opportunities are provided for our youth.
- The communities where we live and work become better places to live.

The Executive recommends:

- 1) Labour Council work with affiliates, labour and community activists to develop support for the “Made in Canada Matters” campaign throughout the greater Toronto area
- 2) Labour Council urge affiliates and activists to contact local City Councillors and tell them that the TTC deal is important in order to protect good jobs
- 3) Labour Council work with affiliates and the CLC to spread the demand for Canadian procurement to other major cities and school boards across Canada,
- 4) Labour Council commend Councillor Chair Howard Moscoe for his principled stand in defence of Canadian jobs, and oppose the attempt by conservatives on City Council to remove him from his position as TTC Chair