

Resolution 10A

HIRE LOCAL (PASSED)

⇒ Town of Truro

WHEREAS skilled trades people from various communities throughout the province are available and willing to work; and

WHEREAS the three levels of government share in a significant number of infrastructure projects, creating good jobs and growing the economy; and

WHEREAS the employment of local trades people significantly contributes to local economies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities write to the Premier of Nova Scotia requesting to identify and implement measures to assist local companies in successfully bidding on contracts for these infrastructure projects, within the limits permitted under the Atlantic Procurement Agreement.

Forwarded to
The Honourable Darrell Dexter, Premier of Nova Scotia

RESPONSE:

Thank you for your letter and attached resolution on measures to assist local companies in successfully bidding on contracts for infrastructure projects, within the limits permitted under the Atlantic Procurement Agreement.

The Province of Nova Scotia is committed to ensuring that its supplier community can continue to grow, be competitive and receive fair treatment in other provinces. To help ensure this, public sector entities adhere to several trade agreements including the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), and the Atlantic Procurement Agreement (APA).

There is an opportunity for public sector entities to analyse the projects during the planning stages, and assess whether projects can be broken down into smaller phases. Depending on the value of the projects, they can be tendered in phases (e.g. if the service of clearing the land prior to construction is under \$50,000 a municipality could choose to get three quotes from people in the community instead of including it in the large infrastructure project).

Trades people should also make themselves known to the contractors who bid on these large infrastructure projects either on their own, or through various trade

organizations and associations. The Construction Association of Nova Scotia may be a good starting point.

The Supplier Development team within Procurement Services at the Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism is available to work with various public sector entities to conduct sector specific workshops in smaller communities to educate and inform interested individuals on how to access and bid on public sector tenders.

Thank you again for your inquiry. The NDP government's jobsHere! initiative may also be of interest to your members and I encourage you to visit the website for information.

The Honourable Darrell E. Dexter, Q.C., M.L.A.

Premier

January 10, 2013