



**SAULT STE. MARIE**  
**CHAMBER**  
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## **Your Chamber applauds a proposal that would open bidding and tendering opportunities for local businesses**

**December 19, 2018** - The Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce is applauding the Ontario government's proposal to explicitly deem public bodies, including municipalities, school boards, hospitals, colleges and universities, as "non-construction employers".

Certain broader public-sector entities, such as the City of Sault Ste. Marie, have become bound to collective agreements for the construction industry, even though they are not actually in the construction business. This proposal, part of the Ontario Government's [Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018](#), would explicitly deem municipalities, school boards, hospitals, colleges, universities and other public bodies to be "non-construction employers" under the Labour Relations Act, 1995. If the proposed amendments are passed, this is expected to increase competitiveness for broader public-sector construction projects.

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC), and the network of Chambers from across the province, unanimously supported the [Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce's Fair and Open Tendering resolution](#) at the 2018 OCC AGM in April 2018. As a network, we have been supporting the communities of Sault Ste. Marie, Hamilton and Kitchener Waterloo for over a decade on this issue.

The Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce has been active in bringing this issue forward in face-to-face meetings with elected officials and government staff at our Northern Day of Advocacy 2016 at during the OCC's Queens Park Day in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Your Chamber's advocacy efforts in support of pursuing legislative changes will help avoid costly and long drawn out legal processes for the municipality.

As an organization, we are proud that we have been able to address the unfairness of the current legislation currently in place to the tax payers of Sault Ste. Marie and Ontario.

With the passage of this legislation, many of our members will win the opportunity to bid and tender on Municipal projects previously unavailable to them.

[Read our full policy resolution from April 2018](#)