LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 9TH ASSEMBLY, 10TH SESSION

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11.09



NORTHERN PREFERENCE

The Government of the Northwest Territories may provide a preference to Northern contractors in order to promote the use of Northern labour and materials purchased in the North and to encourage the development and competitiveness of Northern businesses through the application of a Northern Contracting Preference.

This policy is based on the following principles:

- Northerners should receive every opportunity to benefit from dollars spent in the North.
- 2. Value for money should be obtained for goods and services purchased.
- All firms doing or proposing business with the Government of the Northwest Territories will be treated fairly and consistently.
- 4. Standards of performance will apply equally to all businesses providing service to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Commissioner and

Chairman of the Executive Committee 1962 - 10 - 2.5

Reference

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For elaboration of this Policy refer to Directive.

SCOPE

This directive applies to all contracts entered into by departments and territorial agencies of the Government of the Northwest Territories for:

- 1. Supply of goods contracts.
- 2. Construction contracts.
- 3. Service contracts.
- 4. Leases.

EXCLUSION

This directive does not apply to contracts for:

- 1. Legal services.
- 2. Consulting services.
- Those portions of contracts funded by non Government of the Northwest Territories agencies where the funding conditions preclude the application of preference.

DEFINITIONS

The following terms used in this Directive are hereby defined:

1. Contract

An obligation arising from mutual agreement between the departments and territorial agencies of the Government of the Northwest Territories and at least one other party, the performance of which the law compels or for which the law gives a remedy in damages includes contracts for the supply of goods, construction, contracts for services rendered and leases.

2. General Contractor

Undertaker of a contract with departments, crown corporations or agencies of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the purpose of doing work for payment.

3. Subcontractor

Undertaker of a contract with the General Contractor for the purpose of doing work for payment.

4. Northern Contractor

Means a contractor who complies with all of the following criteria:

- (a) Meets legal requirements to carry on business in the Northwest Territories.
- (b) Maintains a bonafide office in the Northwest Territories with a Resident Manager.
- (c) Employs persons domiciled in the Northwest Territories.
- (d) Has received designation as a Northern Contractor prior to submitting a tender.

5. Responsible Tenderer

Means a contractor who has the capability in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements, and the integrity and reliability which will assume good faith performance.

6. Responsive Tenderer

Means a contractor who has submitted a tender which conforms in all material respects to the invitation to tender or tender call.

7. Adjusted Bid

Means a tenderer's bid adjusted by the dollar amount of the applicable northern preference for evaluation purposes only.

8. Contract Regulations

Means the regulations issued under the authority of the Financial Administration Ordinance that govern the calling for tenders and awarding of contracts.

9. Contract Authority

Means a person designated by the Commissioner to act on his behalf in entering into contracts that are binding on the Government of the Northwest Territories, or its crown corporations and agencies.

10. Territorial Agency

Means a Territorial Committee or a Territorial Corporation as defined in the Financial Administration Ordinance.

11. Goods

Means merchandise, wares and materials whether made or manufactured or ready for delivery at the date of contract.

12. Eastern and Central Northwest Territories

Means the Keewatin, Kitikmeot and Baffin Regions of the Northwest Territories.

13. Western Northwest Territories

Means the Fort Smith and Inuvik Regions of the Northwest Territories.

14. Local Purchasing Authority (LPA)

Means a form authorized by the Government of the Northwest Territories that permits departments and territorial agencies to purchase goods from northern suppliers within a predetermined value.

PROVISIONS

1. Authority and Accountability:

(a) Executive Committee:

Only the Executive Committee may approve exceptions to this policy.

(b) Contract Authority:

Contract Authorities are responsible for the application of the provisions of the Northern Preference Policy and for ensuring adherence to applicable regulations and departmental procedures.

2. <u>Eligibility</u>:

Eligibility for application of a northern contracting preference applies to general contractors and subcontractors. Contractors must apply for designation as a Northern Contractor.

3. Preference:

(a) Under \$250

Departments and territorial agencies may purchase goods valued less than two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) directly from Northern suppliers using a Local Purchasing Authority (LPA).

(b) Under \$5,000

Where goods are available in the Northwest Territories tendering shall be restricted to the Northwest Territories provided the value of such goods does not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000). The Government of the Northwest Territories is not bound to purchase items in the Western Northwest Territories destined for use in the Eastern and Central Northwest Territories and vice versa.

(c) Preference Adjustment

A fixed percentage will be applied to that portion of the contract that will be carried out by a Northern Contractor. The following percentages will apply:

(i) Under \$300,000

For contracts of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) or less, a ten percent (10%) preference, to adjust a bid to a maximum adjustment of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000).

(ii) \$300,000 - \$600,000

For contracts exceeding three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) and up to six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) a preference of ten percent (10%) to adjust a bid on the first three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) and a preference of five percent (5%) adjustment on the remainder to a combined maximum adjustment of forty five thousand dollars (\$45,000).

(iii) Over \$600,000

For contracts over six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) a maximum preference adjustment to a bid of forty five thousand dollars (\$45,000) will apply.

4. Awarding of Contracts:

Contracts will be awarded in accordance with the Contract Regulations of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

5. Evaluation:

A bid will be adjusted for evaluation purposes by the contract authority when all of the following criteria are met:

- (a) A tender submission identifies the value of that part of the contract to be carried out by a Northern Contractor(s).
- (b) An officer of the tenderer has certified that the content attributed to Northern Contractors is correct (supporting materials must be available for supply to the contract authority on request).

6. Monitoring:

If it comes to the attention of the contract authority that a successful tenderer has incorrectly certified or in any way subsequently changed without prior permission, the use of Northern Contractors specified in his tender, the contract authority may disqualify the tenderer from being eligible for the application of northern preference in future tendering. Such a decision would be made known to the tenderer in writing.

7. Registry

A registry of Northern Contractors will be maintained, updated and published annually by the Department of Government Services.

8. Prerogative of Executive Committee

Nothing in this Directive shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Executive Committee to make decisions or take actions, respecting northern contracting preference, outside the provisions of this Directive.

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Chairman of the Executive Committee
1982-10-25

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