

Ministry of Education

School Business Support Branch
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2017: SB13

MEMORANDUM TO: Senior Business Officials
Supply Chain Managers
Finance Managers
Regional Internal Audit Managers

FROM: Cheri Hayward
Director
School Business Support Branch

DATE: June 13, 2017

SUBJECT: Trade Agreement Information

As you are likely aware, Ontario has commitments under a number of trade agreements, both domestically and internationally. The Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) was released to the public on April 7, 2017 and is expected to enter into force on July 1, 2017. The Canada - European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is also expected to enter into force in summer 2017.

All the entities covered by CFTA and CETA, including ministries, agencies, municipalities and organizations in the broader public sector (including school boards, universities, colleges and other publicly funded academic, health, and social services organizations) are required to comply with the obligations set out in the agreements. Both CETA and the CFTA outline procurement obligations that may be new to your organization. For example, the agreements require Ontario to grant Canadian and European Union suppliers with fair and open access to government procurement activities. It's important for you to understand each agreement, in particular government procurement obligations, since these agreements may affect how you currently conduct procurements.

A trade newsletter has been developed to support your organization in complying with the CETA and CFTA requirements. Information highlighted in the document includes an overview of CETA and the CFTA, details related to expanded or revised requirements

for procurement practices, monetary thresholds, and key links to assist with questions your organization may have.

For further information, please visit the [Information for Buyers](#) webpage on the Doing Business with Ontario website. Some of the tools/templates on this site require a password. The password is: Bidguide#01

An information seminar on trade implementation will be conducted in the summer of 2017. Please visit [Eventbrite](#) to register. Register early, as space is limited.

If you have questions regarding the newsletter, send your question to:
bpssupplychain@ontario.caSincerely,

Originally signed by

Cheri Hayward
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