



## Official Opposition • l'Opposition officielle

Ontario NDP Caucus • Groupe parlementaire du NPD de l'Ontario

The Honourable Minister Kinga Surma  
Ministry of Infrastructure  
777 Bay Street, 5th floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2C8

August 12, 2025

Re: Need for stronger Build Canada rules after \$140M contract awarded to U.S. firm

Dear Minister Surma,

We were shocked to learn a U.S. company was awarded a \$140 million contract to build the façade of the Peter Gilgan Mississauga Hospital and Shah Family Hospital for Women and Children in Mississauga, taking profit and jobs offshore.

The government justified the signing of the contract in a statement that read “the process to establish the management and construction of these hospitals began in 2022 through a fair and competitive process, long before the current U.S administration”.

While it is true the procurement process to redevelop the hospital began in 2022, Infrastructure Ontario did not award the final [\\$13.9 billion contract](#) to ED+PCL Healthcare Partners to build the Mississauga hospital until July 2025.

It also appears a sub-contract worth \$140 million was awarded by ED+PCL Healthcare Partners to U.S. company Permasteelisa/Benson to complete the facade of the building in April 2025.

In other words, these contracts were finalized after the trade war with the United States had begun. These contracts were also finalized after the Ontario government brought in a broad [Procurement Restriction Policy in March 2025](#), which bars U.S. companies from public contracts in response to escalating American tariffs on Canadian exports.

The \$140 million contract with a U.S. company is clearly in violation of the spirit of this Procurement Restriction Policy. The contract, however, might not be in violation of the actual policy because the government has carved out large loopholes. For example, US-based companies that employ at least 250 employees in [Canada are not considered US companies](#) for the purposes of the policy.

Now is not the time for half-measures. There are 700,000 unemployed people in Ontario, the highest in a decade.

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To stabilize our economy, the Ontario government needs to show leadership and meaningfully leverage its purchasing clout to build and upgrade critical public infrastructure, giving preference to Ontario workers and Ontario businesses.

The Ontario government should:

- Investigate these two contracts to determine if they are violating Ontario's Procurement Restriction Policy.
- Ensure Ontario, Infrastructure Ontario, all agencies and contractors are in full compliance with Ontario's Procurement Restriction Policy.
- Bring in a stronger Buy Canada, Build Canada plan so Ontario and Canadian businesses are prioritized for all procurement opportunities offered by ministries, provincial agencies, including Infrastructure Ontario, and municipalities.
- Ban U.S. companies from being awarded contracts and sub-contracts offered by ministries, provincial agencies, including Infrastructure Ontario, and municipalities, during the trade war.
- Return to the traditional public delivery model for building, maintaining and operating public services to save money, maximize benefits for Ontario, create good jobs, and ensure more flexibility.
- Mandate community benefits agreements for public infrastructure projects to maximize job opportunities, especially for youth, women, and racialized Ontarians who need a leg up to secure a career in construction.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jessica Bell in black ink.

Jessica Bell  
MPP for University–Rosedale  
Shadow Minister for Finance and Treasury  
Board

Handwritten signature of Catherine Fife in black ink.

Catherine Fife  
MPP for Waterloo  
Shadow Minister for Economic Development  
and Trade

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