

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE

February 16th, 2018

The Honourable Kevin Flynn
Minister of Labour
400 University Avenue, 14th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1T7

Dear Minister Flynn,

RE: Construction Employer designation

You will find attached hereto a resolution passed by the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie City Council regarding the City's designation as a Construction Employer.

The Ontario Labour Relations Board's decision to designate the City of Sault Ste. Marie as a Construction Employer in 1987 has resulted in a monopoly on City construction work held by two specific unions, to the exclusion of all other unionized and non-unionized businesses.

The City believes it is in the best interests of the community to have an unrestricted tendering process. The removal of the City's designation would assist in terms of getting the most competitive price for the taxpayer. Savings from not being designated a Construction Employer are estimated to be between \$400,000 and \$15,000,000.

A legislative change to Section 126 of the Ontario Labour Relations Act would be the quickest and most inexpensive way for the City to shed its designation as a Construction Employer.

We trust that this matter will receive the appropriate time and attention from your office and look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

Christian C. Provenzano, B.A., LL.B., LL.M

Cc: MPP Ross Romano



CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Agenda Number: 8.2
Title: Letter to MPP and Minister of Labour Regarding Construction Employer Designation
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018

Moved by: Councillor M. Shoemaker
Seconded by: Councillor O. Grandinetti

Whereas the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) decision to designate the City of Sault Ste. Marie as a construction employer in 1987 has meant that a monopoly on City construction work is held by two specific unions, to the exclusion of all other unionized and non-unionized businesses; and

Whereas the City of Sault Ste. Marie has directed its staff to prepare and implement the necessary changes to the City's practices in order for it to challenge its construction employer designation; and

Whereas the City of Sault Ste. Marie recognizes that a legislative fix to the Ontario Labour Relations Act would be the quickest and most inexpensive way for the City to shed its designation as a Construction Employer; and

Whereas the City of Sault Ste. Marie supports and encourages a change to the Ontario Labour Relations Act such as the one previously proposed by MPP Michael Harris of Kitchener-Conestoga;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the City of Sault Ste. Marie, through the Mayor's Office, set out in a letter to MPP Ross Romano and Minister of Labour Kevin Flynn the City's position and desire to see a change to the *Ontario Labour Relations Act* that would exclude the City of Sault Ste. Marie from the definition of a Construction Employer.

Carried

Postponed

Defeated

Officially Read and Not
Dealt With


Christian Provenzano