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cc: D. Hapcraft

To: MPPs Peggy Sattler, the Hon. Deb Matthews, Teresa Armstrong, Monte McNaughton, Jeff Yurek, Mayor Joe Fontana and London City Council

From: The London Chamber of Commerce

Date: September 19th 2013

Subject: *Bill 73: Fair and Open Tendering Act*

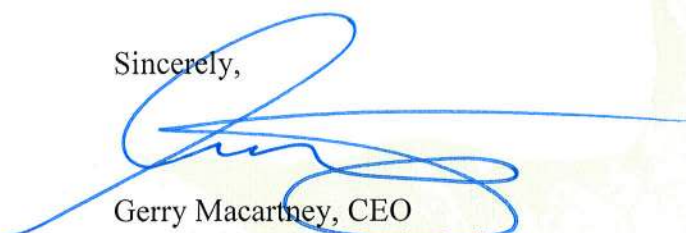
The London Chamber of Commerce is concerned about recent decisions made by the Ontario Labour Board which have certified public sector organizations, including municipalities and school boards, under the *Labour Relations Act*, 1995. These decisions have significantly reduced the number of employers (businesses) who can be considered for projects, which serves only to stifle competition in Ontario and competition is the bedrock on which healthy economies prosper.

Ontario's business community is in favour of policies and legislation that encourage free and open competition and promote fairness. The current certification process is punitive to certain employers.

The certification process raises the cost of projects, which prevents municipalities and school boards from maximizing taxpayers' dollars. Ontario's municipalities, many of whom are facing rising labour costs, simply cannot afford the cost increases that are resulting from certification.

We believe these decisions have set a dangerous precedent. We ask you to support *Bill 73: Fair and Open Tendering Act* and encourage the Ontario Labour Board to amend its certification process so that public sector employers are no longer considered construction employers.

Sincerely,



Gerry Macartney, CEO
On behalf of the Board of Directors
London Chamber of Commerce

Copy: The Ontario Chamber of Commerce