

Peel Region wants to see Caledon and others Buy Canadian

By Matthew Strader

Peel Region wants to see Caledon and others procure Canadian.

In a letter of correspondence included in the agenda package for the April 22 meeting of Caledon Council, the upper-tier regional government has requested that Caledon "adopt procurement strategies that prioritize Canadian and other non-US goods and services over those of the U.S. where feasible."

The letter comes in response to tariffs the United States of America, and the government of U.S. President Donald Trump, have imposed on Canadian goods. The letter explains that on March 4 the U.S. government implemented a 25 per cent tariff on imports that are a product of Canada, except for energy imports from Canada, which are subject to a 10 per cent tariff. It also noted that further tariffs are expected.

"The Canadian government has responded with counter tariffs on U.S. goods and Ontario and municipalities across the country are considering and advancing their own measures," the letter said.

According to the Peel Region it procured \$2.4 billion in goods and services, making it one of the largest in Ontario, and therefore, impacts from the tariffs tabled from the U.S. are expected.

Leaders from the federal, provincial and municipal leaders are encouraging a focus on Canadian products from consumers, and the Peel Region feels it should follow that example.

As well, the policy of the overall trade agreements allows municipalities that power.

"The Region of Peel Procurement By-law upholds respect for international and domestic trade agreements applicable to and within Canada, including the free trade agreement with the European Union (CETA), which prohibit preferential treatment to goods or services based on location or origin," the letter said. "And whereas, the Canada-United States-Mexico free trade agreement does not apply to municipal procurement, making it possible for municipalities to adopt strategies that prefer Canadian and other non-U.S. goods and services to those of the U.S."

Caledon council approved the correspondence without comment.