

CITY OF HAMILTON
NOTICE OF MOTION

General Issues Committee Date: March 20, 2013

MOVED BYCOUNCILLOR B. McHATTIE.....

SECONDED BY

Canadian-European Trade Agreement (CETA) – Canada-EU Trade Negotiations

WHEREAS at its meeting of December 12, 2011, the General Issues Committee passed a motion to “request that the Province of Ontario consider a clear, permanent exemption for the City of Hamilton from the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), and that it otherwise protect the powers of municipalities to use public procurement, services and investment as tools to create local jobs, protect the environment, and support local development;”;

AND WHEREAS this motion further requested, “That the Province of Ontario disclose its initial procurement, services and investment offers to the European Union (EU), explain the impacts the Canada-European Trade Agreement (CETA) would have on municipal governance, and give the Municipal, University, School and Hospital (MUSH) sector entities the freedom to decide whether or not they will be bound by the procurement, investment and regulatory rules in the agreement;”;

AND WHEREAS the Province has so far failed to disclose this information, or to communicate with the City of Hamilton or other Ontario municipalities about the ongoing CETA negotiations and the Provincial procurement offers in particular;

AND WHEREAS Canada-EU trade negotiations are reported to be nearing completion, with leaked documents from European Commission in November 2012 stating, “The outcome regarding the inclusion of regional and local government entities, including agencies, crown corporations, and the MASH sector (municipalities, academia, schools and hospitals) is highly satisfactory,” but that the EU continues to push for full coverage of transit, energy and regional development spending;

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has insisted that trade deals “must recognize strategic and public interest considerations before barring all preferential treatment based on country of origin,” and “There may be industries of strategic significance to a particular region, such as transit, or projects where considerations of quality, public benefit, environmental protection or business ethics means that a local government may wish to implement minimum Canadian-content levels.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- (a) That Council request an immediate briefing from the Provincial Government on the status of the Canada-EU trade negotiations and how municipal governments will be affected, with special attention on the provincial procurement offer to the EU;
- (b) That Council re-state its preference to be excluded from the CETA, and that the Province otherwise protect the powers of municipal governments to use public procurement, services and investment as tools to create local jobs, protect the environment and support local development.