

August 19, 2025

Office of the Honourable Doug Ford
Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West, 6th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Re: Urgent Request Regarding Bidder List for Ottawa Hospital NCD Project

Dear Premier Ford,

On behalf of members of the Ontario Glass & Metal Association (OGMA), I am writing to express our deep concern regarding the recently released bidder list for the New Campus Development (NCD) at the Ottawa Hospital.

We noted with interest the recent press conference by Ministers Vic Fedeli and Peter Bethlenfalvy, reaffirming your government's support for Ontario industries impacted by unfair U.S. aluminum tariffs. As industry associations representing contractors that rely heavily on aluminum extrusions in building façade systems, we commend this initiative. Our members have experienced significant and ongoing material cost increases—many of which cannot be passed on to clients—so this support is both timely and appreciated.

That said, we are extremely concerned by developments surrounding the procurement process for the NCD project.

We have been informed that bid documents for the façade and glazing scope have now been issued to a group of prequalified contractors, including:

- Flynn – Ontario
- CGI – Ontario
- Epsilon – Quebec
- New Hudson Facades – United States
- Permasteelisa/Benson – United States

That there are U.S. contractors on this list is troubling on its own, but especially so considering the highly controversial awarding of the façade contract for the Trillium M project in Mississauga to Permasteelisa/Benson, a U.S.-owned company that manufactures in Mexico using non-Canadian components.

Following that award, our association formally submitted a letter to your office on June 13, 2025, calling for government intervention to ensure that the Ottawa Hospital project

be limited to Canadian companies. We clearly requested that non-Canadian bidders be excluded from participation in the bidding process for this publicly funded project.

To date, we have received no response. This lack of engagement is both disappointing and deeply concerning. It suggests that our associations—and by extension, the many skilled Ontario-based contractors we represent—are being disregarded in matters that directly affect their ability to operate, compete, and survive.

To have one project awarded to a foreign firm may be attributed to oversight; to allow it to happen again is indefensible. It reflects a clear disregard for the skilled, experienced, and well-resourced Ontario companies that our associations represent—companies that contribute directly to Ontario’s economy, employ local workers, and pay taxes that fund the very institutions for which these projects are being built.

This is not just a question of fair competition—it is a matter of economic responsibility.

The exclusion of Ontario companies from these major public infrastructure projects has real and immediate consequences. As a direct result of being shut out of the Trillium M project, Harmon Canada has announced the closure of its 330,000 square foot manufacturing plant in Brampton, resulting in the loss of hundreds of skilled, long-standing, and well-paying Ontario jobs. This is a devastating blow to a proud Canadian community—and one that could have been avoided with a more locally focused procurement approach.

To prevent a repeat of this failure, we are calling on your government to take immediate action:

- Review the bidder list for the Ottawa Hospital NCD project.
- Disqualify non-Canadian bidders, in alignment with the protectionist policies that often exclude Canadian contractors from public projects in the U.S.
- Establish a procurement policy that prioritizes Canadian—specifically Ontario-based—contractors for provincially funded infrastructure projects.

To underscore the real-world impact of these decisions, we invite your office to attend the public auction of Harmon Canada’s Brampton facility, scheduled for September 15–17, 2025. It will offer a sobering view of what is at stake when Ontario-based companies are overlooked in favour of foreign firms.

With bid submissions for the NCD project due by September 5, 2025, this matter is extremely time sensitive. We urge your immediate attention and action to protect Ontario jobs, communities, and industry.



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We also respectfully request a formal response to this letter, acknowledging our concerns and informing us of any steps your office intends to take regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blake Sanders", is written over a horizontal line.

Blake Sanders, President
Ontario Glass & Metal Association
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