

Broader Public Sector Procurement

October 20, 2010

The government is proposing new legislation to ensure fair, open and transparent procurement procedures in broader public sector (BPS) organizations.

If passed, the Broader Public Sector Accountability Act would provide authority for Management Board of Cabinet, to issue procurement directives for BPS organizations and require that they be followed.

The new procurement standards would apply to large BPS organizations such as hospitals, school boards, colleges, universities and every other publicly funded organization that receives more than \$10 million in government funding.

What Does This Mean for the BPS?

For the BPS, the proposed legislation would strengthen procurement rules and increase accountability and transparency in the use of public funds.

The proposed legislation would ensure these organizations follow tough procurement rules, such as mandating competitive procurements and the requirement to adopt a supply chain code of ethics and a procurement policies and procedures standard.

Effective April 2010, hospitals, school boards, colleges and universities were expected to follow the Supply Chain Guideline when procuring goods and services. Until such time as the new procurement and expense claim directives are issued, BPS organizations should follow the guideline (www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/ontariobuys/documents/scg.html).