

CONSTRCUTION LABOUR COST-BENEFIT REPORT

Mover: Matthew Shoemaker

Seconder: Rick Niro

WHEREAS since 1987, the City of Sault Ste. Marie has been limited by the Ontario Labour Relations Board to accepting bids for City infrastructure from only two unions; and

WHEREAS such restrictive practices limit fair competition; and

WHEREAS such restrictive practices unfairly prohibit Sault businesses, both union and non-union, who are not associated with those two unions from bidding and working on City infrastructure; and

WHEREAS on April 24, 2017 a report before City Council advised that there would be an up-front cost associated with any effort by the City of Sault Ste. Marie's to achieve a non-construction employer designation under Ontario's Labour Relations Act, 1995, so that this unfair restriction might be lifted;

WHEREAS a number of sizable infrastructure projects are projected in the City in the next several years, including but not limited to a major refurbishing of the west end sewage-treatment plant and a potential biosolids plant; and

WHEREAS it is in the City's best interest to have competitive bids from qualified contractors for the prospective work, and so that all qualified businesses, both union and non-union, are eligible to submit bids and work on such projects;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report to Council with:

1. The estimated cost of any upcoming City infrastructure projects that would require the City only accept bids from the two unions currently allowed to submit bids;
2. The anticipated cost of making an application to the Ontario Labour Relations Board to be granted a non-construction employer designation;
3. A report outlining actions the City would have to take to achieve a non-construction employer designation at the Labour Relations Board;
4. The timeframe within which the City would be able to achieve a non-construction employer designation;
5. If known or determinable, the time it would take to recover the costs associated with acquiring a non-construction employer designation from the savings that would be achieved by allowing bidding from all qualified contractors for City infrastructure projects;
6. Any other relevant information.