



## Policy on Purchasing

Category :	Finance
Administrative Authority:	Vice President, Administration
Approval Authority:	Board of Governors
Approval Date:	April 21, 2017
Effective Date :	April 21, 2017
Latest Revision Date :	April 17, 2015
Next Review:	February 2022

### 1. Overview

- 1.1 Laurentian University is committed to maintaining high standards for performance based on fair, ethical, legal, environmental, and professional business practices. The University, its employees and agents shall procure goods and services in an open, fair and transparent manner and in a competitive environment, so that all transactions yield the optimal benefit to the University in the circumstances.
- 1.2 The Ontario Broader Public Sector (BPS) Procurement Directive was issued by Management Board of Cabinet, effective July 1, 2011. The purpose of the Directive is “to ensure that publicly funded goods and services, including construction, consulting services, and information technology, are acquired by BPS organizations through a process that is open, fair and transparent, to outline responsibilities of BPS organizations throughout each stage of the procurement process, and to ensure that procurement processes are managed consistently throughout the BPS”.

- 1.3 The University is also bound by requirements of funding agencies, to the extent that those requirements comply with applicable procurement legislation and regulation.
- 1.4 The Policy on Purchasing (the “policy”) will apply to all University funds from all sources, including the operating, research, capital and ancillary funds and all other funds held in trust.

**2. Purpose**

- 2.1 This policy is intended to:
  - 2.1.1 Ensure that publicly funded goods and services, including construction, consulting services, and information technology, are acquired by Laurentian University through a process that is open, fair, and transparent; and
  - 2.1.2. Outline responsibilities of Laurentian University personnel throughout each stage of the procurement process; and
  - 2.1.3 Ensure that procurement processes are managed consistently; and
  - 2.1.4 Support collaborative purchasing (group buying) and the adoption and sharing of leading procurement practices; and
  - 2.1.5 Promote and encourage suppliers to consider sustainability and social responsibility in their product or service offerings.

**3. Scope**

- 3.1 This policy applies to all employees and agents of Laurentian University and to all University funds from all sources, including the operating, research, Capital and ancillary funds and all other funds held in trust.
- 3.2 The University is bound by requirements of funding agencies, to the extent that those requirements comply with applicable procurement legislation and regulation.

**4. Definitions in this Policy and related Program:**

- 4.1 The following definitions, for the most part, are outlined in the Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive and apply to this Policy and related program.

- “Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)” means a national agreement that regulates trade between the provinces to ensure equal access to public-sector procurement for all Canadian suppliers. The agreement aims to reduce barriers to the movement of persons, goods, services and investments within Canada.
- “Broader Public Sector (BPS)” means as defined in the Broader Public Sector Accountability Act, 2010.
- “BPS Procurement Directive” means BPS Procurement Directive, which replaces the BPS Supply Chain Guideline issued by the Ministry of Finance in 2009.
- “Competitive Procurement” means a set of procedures for developing a procurement contract through a bidding or proposal process. The intent is to solicit fair, impartial, competitive bids.
- “Consultant” means a person or entity that under an agreement, other than an employment agreement, provides expert or strategic advice and related services for consideration and decision-making.
- “Consulting Services” means the provision of expertise or strategic advice that is presented for consideration and decision-making.
- “Goods” means moveable property (including the costs of installing, operating, maintaining or manufacturing such moveable property) including raw materials, products, equipment and other physical objects of every kind and description whether in solid, liquid, gaseous or electronic form, unless they are procured as part of a general construction contract.
- “Goods and Services” means all goods and/or services including construction, consulting services and information technology.
- “Invitational competitive procurement” means minimum of three or more suppliers are invited to submit a written quotation.
- “Open Competitive Process” means a set of procedures for developing a procurement contract through a bidding or proposal process and publicly posting the requirement through MERX the electronic tendering service used by the Federal and Provincial Governments as well as the MASH sector (Municipal, Academic, School Boards and Hospitals). The intent is to solicit fair, impartial, competitive bids.

- “Single Sourcing” means a non-competitive method of procurement of goods or services from a supplier in situations where there is or may be another supplier or suppliers capable of delivering these goods or services.
- “Sole Source” means the use of a non-competitive procurement process to acquire goods or services where there is only one available supplier for the source of the goods or service.

## **5. Policy Statement**

### **5.1 Competitive Procurement Processes**

It is the policy of Laurentian University that the acquisition of goods and services and construction and renovation work be in accordance with the (BPS) Procurement Directive and guided by the Supply Chain Code of Ethics Policy as adopted on April 15, 2011.

### **5.2 Non-Competitive Procurement – Sole/Single Sourcing**

Laurentian University will employ an open competitive process when required and whenever possible to increase the likelihood of achieving the greatest value for money. However, in some specific situations as described in this Sole/Single Source Section of this Policy, competitive procurement processes may not be warranted.

In the event that Laurentian University employs a non-competitive procurement process for goods, construction, advertising or non-consulting services over \$10,000, formal documentation will be completed in the form required.

- 5.3 All procurement processes will be guided by the Supply Chain Code of Ethics Policy adopted on April 15, 2011.

## **6. Responsibilities**

- 6.1 All employees and agents of Laurentian University who, during the course of their duties, are involved in the process of acquiring goods and services including construction, consulting services, and information technology are required to adhere to this Policy.

## **7. Confidentiality**

- 7.1 The Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive requires:

- 7.1.1 That all participants in a procurement evaluation be aware of and abide by the restrictions related to confidential information shared through the competitive bidding process; and
- 7.1.2 That evaluators refrain from engaging in any activity that may create or appear to create a conflict of interest; and
- 7.1.3 That evaluations be conducted in a fair and consistent manner in accordance with evaluation criteria and methodology set out in the procurement documents.

**8. Notice of Collection of Personal Information under this Policy**

- 8.1 The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990* (FIPPA) make public bodies accountable to the public and protect personal privacy. The privacy legislation stipulates a right of access to records held by public bodies and regulates how public bodies manage personal information.
- 8.2 Individuals engaged in Supply Chain Activities on behalf of organizations should be aware of the implications of the Freedom of Information (FOI) requirements of FIPPA and the resulting importance of professional conduct. Freedom of Information requests can be made for information on tendering and administration of contracts.

**9. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, and its standards**  
Procuring or acquiring goods, services or facilities

- 9.1 The University shall incorporate accessibility design, criteria and features when procuring or acquiring goods, services or facilities, where it is practicable to do so.
- 9.2 If the University determines that it is not practicable to incorporate accessibility design, criteria and features when procuring or acquiring goods, services or facilities, it shall provide, upon request, an explanation.

**10. Related Legislation, Policies, Procedures and other Documents**

- 10.1 *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*
- 10.2 *Broader Public Sector Accountability Act, 2010*
- 10.3 *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990*
- 10.4 *Ontarians with Disability Act, 2001*
- 10.5 Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)
- 10.6 Broader Public Sector (BPS) Procurement Directive, (2011)
- 10.7 Broader Public Sector (BPS) Expenses Directive, (2011)

- 10.8 Ontario-Quebec Trade and Cooperation Agreement
- 10.9 Policy on Signing Authorizations
- 10.10 Supply Chain Code of Ethics Policy
- 10.11 Decision-Making Requirements Associated with Current and Future Capital Projects

## **11. History of Revisions**

- 11.1 This version of the Policy was adopted on February 24, 2012 by way of approval by the Laurentian University Board of Governors, following revisions to the previous Purchasing Policy for Goods and Services approved by the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors on September 9, 2005.

## **12. Policy Review**

- 12.1 This policy will be reviewed in February 2017 in accordance with the Broader Public Sector (BPS) Procurement Directive, (2011).
- 12.2 The policy comes into effect the date of its approval by the Board of Governors of Laurentian University and will remain in effect until a newly revised policy has been approved by the Board of Governors.

## **13. Appendices**

- Appendix A Procurement of Goods, Non-Consulting Services and Construction
- Appendix B Procurement of Consulting Services
- Appendix C Responsibilities and Approval Thresholds for Any Goods or Services
- Appendix D Tender Template Bid Irregularity Protocol

**Procurement of Goods, Non-Consulting Services and Construction**

<b>TOTAL PURCHASE BEFORE TAXES</b>	<b>REQUISITION</b> <i>Signing authority</i>	<b>BUDGETING</b> <i>Authorization that funding is available</i>	<b>COMMITMENT</b> <i>Authorization to release the order and confirmation that process has been followed</i>	<b>RECEIPT</b> <i>Order is physically received + authorizes payment by Finance</i>	<b>PAYMENT</b> <i>Authorizes release of payment</i>	<b>PROCESS</b> <i>Including approval for any exemptions where applicable</i>	<b>MEANS OF PROCUREMENT /PURCHASING</b>
\$0 - \$2,999.99	Budget Holder (no requisition signing authority required)	Budget Holder	Budget Holder	Budget Holder	Budget Holder		Procurement card (P-Card) OR Petty cash up to \$100
\$3,000 - \$9,999.99	Budget Holder	Budget Holder and Financial Services	Director of Campus Services OR Buyer of Purchasing and Contract Management	Budget Holder	Financial Services	Quote can be obtained by department OR Purchasing Services	Single written quotation required

**Procurement of Goods, Non-Consulting Services and Construction**

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\$10,000 - \$49,999.99	Budget Holder	Budget Holder and Financial Services	Director of Campus Services	Budget Holder	Financial Services	Quote can be obtained by department OR Purchasing Services	Invitational competitive procurement (minimum of three or more suppliers are invited to submit a written quotation)
\$50,000 - \$99,999.99	Budget Holder	Budget Holder and Financial Services	Director of Campus Services and one other approval and signature from the Responsibilities and Approval Thresholds	Budget Holder	Financial Services	Purchasing Services manages the acquisition process through an RFQ or RFP. Tenders for construction projects are managed by Physical Plant and Planning.	Invitational competitive procurement (minimum of three or more suppliers are invited to submit a written quotation)

**Procurement of Goods, Non-Consulting Services and Construction**

<b>TOTAL PURCHASE BEFORE TAXES</b>	<b>REQUISITION</b> <i>Signing authority</i>	<b>BUDGETING</b> <i>Authorization that funding is available</i>	<b>COMMITMENT</b> <i>Authorization to release the order and confirmation that process has been followed</i>	<b>RECEIPT</b> <i>Order is physically received + authorizes payment by Finance</i>	<b>PAYMENT</b> <i>Authorizes release of payment</i>	<b>PROCESS</b> <i>Including approval for any exemptions where applicable</i>	<b>MEANS OF PROCUREMENT /PURCHASING</b>
\$100,000 - \$999,999.99	Budget Holder	Budget Holder and Financial Services	Director of Campus Services and one other approval and signature from the Responsibilities and Approval Thresholds	Budget Holder	Financial Services	Purchasing Services manages the acquisition process through an RFP. Tenders for construction projects are managed by Physical Plant and Planning.	Open competitive process

**Procurement of Goods, Non-Consulting Services and Construction**

TOTAL PURCHASE BEFORE TAXES	REQUISITION Signing authority	BUDGETING Authorization that funding is available	COMMITMENT Authorization to release the order and confirmation that process has been followed	RECEIPT Order is physically received + authorizes payment by Finance	PAYMENT Authorizes release of payment	PROCESS Including approval for any exemptions where applicable	MEANS OF PROCUREMENT /PURCHASING
\$1,000,000 - above	Budget Holder	Budget Holder and Financial Services	Director of Campus Services and one other approval and signature from the Responsibilities and Approval Thresholds	Budget Holder	Financial Services	Purchasing Services manages the acquisition process through an RFP. Tenders for construction projects are managed by Physical Plant and Planning.	Open competitive process

**Procurement of Consulting Services**

<b>TOTAL PURCHASE BEFORE TAXES</b>	<b>REQUISITION</b> <i>Signing authority</i>	<b>BUDGETING</b> <i>Authorization that funding is available</i>	<b>COMMITMENT</b> <i>Authorization to release the order and confirmation that process has been followed</i>	<b>RECEIPT</b> <i>Order is physically received + authorizes payment by Finance</i>	<b>PAYMENT</b> <i>Authorizes release of payment</i>	<b>PROCESS</b> <i>Including approval for any exemptions where applicable</i>	<b>MEANS OF PROCUREMENT /PURCHASING</b>
\$0 - \$49,999.99	Budget Holder	Budget Holder and Financial Services	Director of Campus Services*	Budget Holder	Financial Services	Quotes can be obtained by department OR Purchasing Services	Invitational competitive procurement (minimum of three or more suppliers are invited to submit a written quotation)

**\*Non-competitive process must be approved by the President**

**Procurement of Consulting Services**

<b>TOTAL PURCHASE BEFORE TAXES</b>	<b>REQUISITION</b> <i>Signing authority</i>	<b>BUDGETING</b> <i>Authorization that funding is available</i>	<b>COMMITMENT</b> <i>Authorization to release the order and confirmation that process has been followed</i>	<b>RECEIPT</b> <i>Order is physically received + authorizes payment by Finance</i>	<b>PAYMENT</b> <i>Authorizes release of payment</i>	<b>PROCESS</b> <i>Including approval for any exemptions where applicable</i>	<b>MEANS OF PROCUREMENT /PURCHASING</b>
\$50,000 - \$99,999.99	Budget Holder	Budget Holder and Financial Services	Director of Campus Services and one other approval and signature from the Responsibilities and Approval Thresholds*	Budget Holder	Financial Services	Purchasing Services manages the acquisition process	Invitational competitive procurement (minimum of three or more suppliers are invited to submit a written quotation)

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\$100,000 - \$999,999.99	Budget Holder	Budget Holder and Financial Services	Director of Campus Services and one other approval and signature from the Responsibilities and Approval Thresholds *	Budget Holder	Financial Services	Purchasing Services manages the acquisition process through an RFP. All postings will be on MERX	Open competitive process

**\*Non-competitive process must be approved by the President**

**Procurement of Consulting Services**

<b>TOTAL PURCHASE BEFORE TAXES</b>	<b>REQUISITION</b> <i>Signing authority</i>	<b>BUDGETING</b> <i>Authorization that funding is available</i>	<b>COMMITMENT</b> <i>Authorization to release the order and confirmation that process has been followed</i>	<b>RECEIPT</b> <i>Order is physically received + authorizes payment by Finance</i>	<b>PAYMENT</b> <i>Authorizes release of payment</i>	<b>PROCESS</b> <i>Including approval for any exemptions where applicable</i>	<b>MEANS OF PROCUREMENT /PURCHASING</b>
\$1,000,000 - above	Budget Holder	Budget Holder and Financial Services	Director of Campus Services and one other approval and signature from the Responsibilities and Approval Thresholds **	Budget Holder	Financial Services	Purchasing Services manages the acquisition process through an RFP. All postings will be on MERX	Open competitive process

**\*\*Non-competitive process must be approved by the Board of Governors**

**Responsibilities and Approval Thresholds for Any Goods or Services**

<b>TYPE OF AGREEMENT</b> <i>Required approval and signatures:</i>  <i>Position Title</i>	<b>APPROVAL CONTRACT</b> <i>&gt;\$1,000,000</i>	<b>CONTRACT COMMITMENT</b> <i>&gt;\$250,000</i>  <i>One of group A plus any other</i>	<b>CONTRACT COMMITMENT</b> <i>&gt;\$50,000</i>  <i>any 2 of</i>	<b>CONTRACT COMMITMENT</b> <i>&gt;\$10,000</i>  <i>any 1 of</i>	<b>CONTRACT COMMITMENT</b> <i>&lt;\$10,000</i>  <i>any 1 of</i>	<b>PURCHASING CARD COMMITMENT</b> <i>&lt;\$3,000</i>
<b>Group A</b> Board of Governors Chairperson of the Board of Governors President & Vice-Chancellor Vice-President, Administration Other Vice-Presidents University Secretary and General Counsel Executive Director, Financial Services	x	x  x  x  x  x  x	x  x  x  x  x  x	x  x  x  x  x  x	x  x  x  x  x  x	
<b>Group B</b> Executive Director, Student Life, Enrolment Management and International, within the purview of the role Director(s) in Finance Executive Director, Human Resources & Organizational Development, within the purview of the role Chief Advancement Officer, within the purview of the role Director, Campus Services Buyer, Purchasing & Contract Management Budget Holder		x   x   x	x   x   x	x   x   x	x x   x x  x	x

**TENDER TEMPLATE  
BID IRREGULARITY PROTOCOL**

	<b>IRREGULARITY</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
1	Late Bid.	Automatic rejection and not opened or read publicly.
2	Unsealed Envelope.	Automatic rejection
3	No Bid Security or agreement to bond or insufficient Bid Deposit or agreement to bond.	Automatic rejection.
4	Bids completed and/or signed in erasable medium.	Automatic rejection.
5	All required sections of Bid documents not completed.	Automatic rejection unless, in the consensual opinion of the Director of Campus Services and the applicable Director in charge of the Bid Solicitation, the incomplete nature is trivial or insignificant.
6	Qualified Bids (Bids qualified or restricted by an attached statement).	Automatic rejection unless, in the consensual opinion of the Director of Campus Services and the applicable Director in charge of the Bid Solicitation the qualification or restriction is trivial or not significant.
7	Bids received on documents other than those provided or specified by the University.	Automatic rejection.
8	Bids containing Clerical Errors, which are trivial or insignificant.	48 hours to correct and initial errors. The determination of what constitutes trivial or insignificant errors shall be made in the consensual opinion of the Director of Campus Services and the applicable Director in charge of the Bid Solicitation.
9	Failure to execute Agreement to Bond (Surety's Consent)	Automatic rejection.
10	Failure to execute Bid Bond by Bidder or Bonding Company.	Automatic rejection.
11	Failure to attend or have a representative in attendance at a Mandatory Information Meeting within the prescribed time period.	Automatic rejection where such meeting is specified as mandatory in the Bid Solicitation.
12	Signature is missing; signatory's authority to bind the corporation or signature missing.	Automatic Rejection.

13	Erasures, Overwriting or Strike-outs which are not initialed:	
(a)	Uninitialled changes to the Tender documents, other than unit prices, which are trivial or not significant.	48 hours to initial. The determination of what constitutes trivial or insignificant uninitialled changes shall be made in the consensual opinion of the Director of Campus Services and the applicable Director in charge of the Bid Solicitation.
(b)	Unit prices in the Schedule of Prices have been changed but not initialled and the Contract totals are consistent with the prices as changed.	48 hours to initial. The determination of what constitutes trivial or insignificant uninitialled changes shall be made in the consensual opinion of the Director of Campus Services and the applicable Director in charge of the Bid Solicitation.
(c)	Unit prices in the Schedule of Prices which have been changed but not initialled and the Contract totals are inconsistent with the price as changed.	Automatic rejection.
14	Mathematical errors which are not consistent with unit prices.	48 hours to correct and initial.
15	Bids, in which all Addenda, have not been acknowledged.	Automatic rejection.
16	Failure to select only pre-qualified sub-contractors or suppliers	Automatic rejection.
17	List of sub-contractors missing in Appendix A	Automatic rejection.
18	Failure to include a price for work for which a unit, separate, itemized or alternative price is required. Unless it is clear that there is no intention to submit a price such as labelling N/A.	Automatic rejection unless, in the consensual opinion of the Director of Campus Services and the applicable Director in charge of the Bid Solicitation the bid document(s) not provided contains information which is trivial or insignificant in which case 48 hours shall be provided to submit the document(s).
19	Failure to insert the Bidder's business name in the bid documents.	Automatic rejection.
20	Any other irregularities.	Automatic rejection. The Director of Campus Services and the applicable Director in charge of the Bid Solicitation shall have authority to waive other irregularities or grant 48 hours to initial or correct such other irregularities determined by them to be trivial or insignificant.

**END OF DOCUMENT**