



# ProSME's Newsletter (#6) – CANADA

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## QUÉBEC – The Government Acquisition Centre

The Government of Québec provides departments and public bodies with the goods and services they need in the fulfilment of their respective functions, with the aim of **optimizing** government acquisitions in **compliance** with the applicable contractual rules.

Through its [Government Acquisitions Centre \(CAG\)](#), the Government is responsible for acquiring goods and services on behalf of public bodies; it does so by grouping them together or carrying out mandates. It therefore plays a key role in the management of [information technology \(IT\) purchasing groups](#), which it sets up for the benefit of government departments and agencies, establishments in the education network and establishments in the health and social services network which have common and recurring needs.

Several purchasing groups for IT goods and services are available to customers, particularly for the acquisition of software, micro computers and servers.

Similar Purchasing Groups provide guidance in the fields of [health](#) and [education](#).

The details surrounding the purchasing groups are available on the Procurement Portal or via the Common Purchasing Software (LAC).

A purchasing guide for specific groups is made available on the Procurement Portal. This guide informs the customer of the various terms and conditions: important notices, duration, customers involved, prices and characteristics of products and services, method of acquisition, follow-up measures, delivery, suppliers or service providers selected as well as the case manager.

Although access to this Portal may require prior registration, the information it contains ensures that potential bidders are fully aware of the regulatory context within which they intend to operate.

Source :

<https://www.quebec.ca/gouvernement/faire-affaire-gouvernement/appels-offres-acquisitions/regroupement-achats-biens-services>

MICHEL BRICTEUX (AWEX)

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## QUEBEC – Infrastructures Technologiques Québec (ITQ)

Since its creation on September 1, 2020, [Infrastructures Technologiques Québec \(ITQ\)](#) has built the foundations that allowing it to position itself as an **accelerator of government digital transformation**.

ITQ's mandate is clear: to deploy the Government of Quebec's digital strategy by setting up and modernising infrastructures technologies, software platforms and common support systems, according to cybersecurity best practices. In addition, ITQ contributes directly to government performance by carrying out common administrative operations that support public bodies in the management of their payroll as well as their human and financial resources.

As an essential partner of public bodies, the [Ministry of Cybersecurity and Digital \(MCN\)](#) works daily to optimise its products and services, improve its infrastructure, and develop its skills. It relies, among other things, on the best practices in information technology to offer a quality service.

In order to allow its clientele to follow the projects in progress, the MCN puts forward the section of the major organisational projects which serve as leverage in the achievement of government objectives. To find out about the services offered, consult [the catalog](#).

Source : <https://bit.ly/3HqWRol>

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## ONTARIO - Transport, infrastructure and Health Care, top public sector priorities for the province of Ontario in 2023:

Of almost 100 expensive public infrastructure projects in Canada, the province of Ontario [accounts for almost 40%](#). The Ontario government plans making [investments in healthcare, long-term care, transportation, education, and other critical infrastructure](#) leveraging its public-private partnership (P3) delivery model and other innovative approaches. The fall update from Infrastructure Ontario listed 39 major infrastructure projects, with an estimated value of \$35 billion CAD. The government of Ontario has recently announced plans to invest in [private healthcare](#) to improve health care services in the province.

OMAR JANJUA (Business France)

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## CANADA - Public Procurement 2022 Year in Review

New procurement-related challenges for purchasers and suppliers emerged in 2022 that could have a lasting impact moving forward. While global commerce, supply chains and procurement efforts slowly shifted back to a normal baseline, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, global security threats and high levels of inflation created new obstacles for government entities and public companies operating in the procurement space. With this in mind, staying up to date on the latest developments in procurement law is a business imperative.

To help you navigate this increasingly challenging environment, McCarthy Tétrault's Procurement Group has released its [Public Procurement 2022 Year in Review](#). Their practical guide provides an overview of the key changes in procurement policies and methods by Canadian public purchasers, as well as an in-depth analysis of new decisions from procurement-related administrative tribunals, the Federal Court and various provincial courts.

### CHANGES TO PROCUREMENT POLICIES

In June 2021, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) announced that it would be making changes to the [Contract Security Program](#) (CSP). Changes to the personnel screening process were implemented under Phase 1 in October 2021. On May 2, 2022, PSPC implemented Phase 2 of its plan for changes to the CSP, which focused on the organisation security screening process. The changes in Phase 2 refocus organisation security screening efforts on active participants in a procurement process with a view to shortening processing times, reducing the administrative burden on industry, streamline the subcontracting process, and improve the competitiveness of Canadian industry in foreign defence and security markets. Through these changes to the CSP, PSPC intends to improve service standards and align the security screening process with those of like-minded foreign partners.

Last year also marked the transition to a full implementation of the new [Directive on the Management of Procurement](#) (Directive) replacing the Contracting Policy and Policy on Decision Making in Limiting Contractor Liability in Crown Procurement Contracts. While this initially entered into effect on May 13, 2021, federal departments had until May 13, 2022, to fully transition. The new Directive attempts to streamline the prior policies by moving to an approach focussed on the key procurement principles of fairness, openness, and transparency, and away from prescriptive, process-directed requirements. The new Directive prioritises the simplification of solicitations and solicitation documents, including by limiting the number of mandatory technical criteria to those determined to be essential. It also specifically provides that contracting authorities should, to the extent possible, take past performance into consideration when assessing the bidder's ability to deliver.

In January 2022, the federal government also announced a comprehensive plan to diversify suppliers. The [Supplier Diversity Action Plan](#) lays out steps to increase the participation of businesses from underrepresented groups in federal procurement, including enhanced services to help underrepresented groups navigate the procurement system. One such service is a new coaching program for underrepresented suppliers that have had limited success in federal procurements. The coaching service was launched in May 2022 and will help suppliers address some of the most commonly perceived barriers in procurement, as well as bidding challenges they have previously faced.

Source : <https://www.mccarthy.ca/en/insights/books-guides/public-procurement-2022-year-review>

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