



The Government Purchasers Act by Doug Paterson, Q.C.

Have you ever heard of the Government Purchasers Act? Most people have not, but if you are and a concerned taxpayer or a business owner wishing to sell products to the Province, it's a good idea to be aware of this Act.

A General Purchasing Agent is appointed to be in charge. The Purchasing Bureau is set up to buy products required by civil servants of the Province.

The agent arranges to buy "any and all commodities" required by the various departments of the government, except for supplies and equipment of a technical nature which are bought by an official appointed by a Minister specifically; except for contracts for erection and repair of buildings. Also excepted are emergency supplies on matters that were not anticipated until the need arose, but such purchases must meet the Ministers approval after the fact.

The General Purchasing Agent must: buy in the most economical way, call for offers by tender process where possible, tabulate all offers for presentation to the Minister, where all things

all equal buy Manitoba products, and in every case the lowest bidder will be the winner.

The General Purchasing Agent must establish quality control standard for all items purchased for use by the departments, as well, all purchase contracts are to be standardized and uniform.

The Agent also has the power to buy items in bulk where it makes sense. After that, individual departments may buy from the bulk stocks.

All requisitions for items needed by government departments must, of course, be in writing and in standard form. These forms must be signed by authorized officials.

The lowest tendered price will not be accepted only rarely and only if the Agent feels it would not be in the public interests to accept the lowest price. The Minister must then okay the exception.