



## Addressing SMEs' challenges and constraints through the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises in Canada



Public Procurement Principle: **Access, Participation, Balance**



Procurement Stage: **Pre-tendering, Tendering**



Audience: **Policy maker, Private sector, Procuring entity**

### Description

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The Office of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME) in Public Works and Government Services Canada assists the government in bridging the gap between supply and demand by bringing to light the concerns and challenges of SMEs in the federal procurement process. OSME works with SMEs to address their key challenges and constraints by:

- understanding and reducing the barriers that prevent SMEs from participating in federal procurement
- advising government buyers and policy makers on SME concerns
- recommending improvements to procurement tools and processes to encourage SME participation in federal procurement. PSPC provides additional information available to SMEs on their webpage under "Help for SMEs" Information services include:
  - a portal that provides access to federal procurement information and open data including bid opportunities (tenders), standing offers and supply arrangements, and contract history
  - free seminars, webinars and one-on-one sessions to assist suppliers in understanding federal procurement
  - telephone information line for suppliers who have questions about the procurement process and related tools. The Office of Small and Medium Enterprises also manages the Build in Canada Innovation Programme, which assists Canadian businesses in testing their innovative goods and services before they are commercialised.

Source: OECD (2018), SMEs in Public Procurement: Practices and Strategies for Shared Benefits, OECD Public <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264307476-en>

