

## **Bulldog Ottawa**

*Journalist Ken Gray's news site is required reading for Ottawa's politicians, public servants, business people and engaged residents*

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## **Bring AG Into City Purchasing: OTAG**

Posted on [December 5, 2012](#) by [Ken Gray](#)

This is an edited press release from the Ottawa Taxpayer Advocacy Group:

*In the wake of recent revelations regarding Presto, Plasco and other procurement stumbles, the Ottawa Taxpayer Advocacy Group is calling for a bylaw that would better protect taxpayers against future problems. OTAG points to its National counterpart MTAGs fight to lobby the provincial and federal governments and suggests that the city should not wait for proposed changes to the criminal code or other laws to change the way it makes contractual decisions.*

*"We think these kinds of mishaps could be avoided by better integrating the office of the Auditor General" said Kevin MacDonald, the group's President. As taxpayers discovered during the Lansdowne experience, sole source contracts are permissible under City bylaws, but as MacDonald points out, "If the Auditor General had a chance to review staff recommendations BEFORE the contract is issued, he could independently consider the business case, and Council could have an informed vote on whether to go ahead, thereby preventing a nasty look in the rear view mirror. "*

*Even if there are no other interested parties, every contract over \$5 million dollars should go to tender. "There are many other outfits with incineration technology that would have submitted a bid, if the pilot program had been put to tender. Before the city signs a new 20 year contract with Plasco, the AG should review the file and report back to Council."*

*Even tendered high value multiyear contracts like the Orgaworlds green bin contract would benefit from AG input before the contract is awarded. MacDonald theorizes that the new bylaw would provide a certainty of process that will encourage businesses to come forward with their technology and ideas. "It doesn't matter how much bad news we hear from the AG several years after the deal is done, it becomes spilled milk and it won't change a thing" said.*

*The Ottawa Taxpayer Advocacy group is a non profit organization focused on encouraging Ottawa City Council to view money management as its top priority.*

*The Municipal Taxpayer Advocacy Group is focused on encouraging all City Councils across Canada to view money management as priority 1.*

*For more info :*

**Kevin MacDonald**

**President, OTAG**

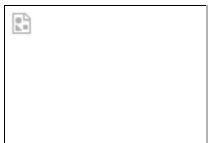
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