

# NDPer pans feds' pin plan

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Sun Media

OTTAWA — The federal government is under fire for a plan to purchase pins that may be made outside Canada.

A tender notice from the Public Works Department posted yesterday calls for up to 40,000 pins for Agriculture Canada featuring a stylized

maple leaf with a "Canada" logo.

The supplier must be domestic, but there's no requirement for the pins to be manufactured in Canada.

That angers NDP MP Charlie Angus, who said the symbolic pins should be proudly crafted in Canada.

"If we're going to just go to the cheapest sweatshop, why don't we just run a Wal-Mart

flag up the Peace Tower?" he fumed.

"It's an embarrassment. It's a little thing, but it's not all that hard for the government to procure in Canada."

Angus had declared the former Liberal government "roadside hucksters" for farming out production of six million maple leaf pins to China.

"We're asking people to have respect for the flag, yet

we have a government that will nickel and dime us by seeking out the cheapest sweatshops around the world. The flag should stand for something more," he said.

Tasia Papadatos, who works in Public Works' procurement division, said some departments require the pins be manufactured in Canada, but others don't stipulate where the items must be made.