

Friday, May 1, 2015 – for immediate release

## **Ontario Auto Mayors reinforce the need for a national automotive strategy**

The Ontario Auto Mayors are concerned with General Motors of Canada's announcement to cut 1,000 jobs at the Oshawa assembly plant as result of a production shift of the Chevrolet Camaro. Production of the Camaro in Oshawa will stop in November 2015 and start in Michigan, U.S.

"Canada has now lost out on several investment renewal opportunities in the automotive manufacturing sector," said Mayor Rob Burton, Chair of the Ontario Auto Mayors. "These losses confirm the immediate need to strengthen our national policies to keep automotive investment in Canada."

In contrast, General Motors of Canada also announced an expansion of their engineering centre in Oshawa and its designation as an innovation hub for connected vehicles that are equipped with internet access. They will be hiring approximately 100 software and controls engineers to develop new internet connected vehicles and green technologies.

"This engineering investment is very positive for the automotive sector, reinforcing Canada's role as a major player. However, it does not negate the fact that there has been a shift in automotive investment. If we want to keep production here, we need to develop policies that will keep our automotive sector strong," added Mayor Burton.

Foreign governments continue to use subsidies and incentives to compete for the development of new facilities, threatening investment in the maintenance and expansion of existing Canadian automotive facilities. As a result, financial support from the provincial and federal government is vitally important to keep the auto sector competitive and keep automakers in Canada.

The Ontario Auto Mayors leads a coalition of OEMs, industry stakeholders, government, unions and academics to develop and implement strategies to enhance automotive investment in Canada. They continue to emphasize the need for a national manufacturing auto policy among all levels of government to protect and grow this sector.

### **About the Ontario Auto Mayors**

The Ontario Auto Mayors work collaboratively at the provincial and federal levels to promote awareness, advocacy and strategic policy initiatives to strengthen the Canadian economy by keeping the automotive sector strong as a driver of employment, innovation and productivity advances across the Canadian economy so we can afford to look after all our needs as a society such as infrastructure creation and renewal.

For more information about the Ontario Auto Mayors, please visit [automayors.ca](http://automayors.ca).

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