

For Immediate Release
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Auto Sector Remains Key to Economic Prosperity in Ontario



Members of the Ontario Auto-Mayors caucus met at the historic Parkwood Estate in Oshawa

Auto-Mayors from across southern Ontario gathered in the City of Oshawa to reaffirm their commitment to the auto sector and the on-going need to keep the auto industry globally competitive.

Few businesses invest as much in innovation and capital improvements at one time and generate as much economic activity as the automotive industry. Due to the scale and planning required, automotive companies must make strategic decisions regarding technology and capital investments years in advance. Increasingly, automotive companies are becoming integrated technology companies as the pace of developing and introducing autonomous and electric vehicles increases.

Fortunately, the Province of Ontario and its local municipalities are in an excellent position to continuing playing a major role with respect to supporting this technological revolution.

With one of the most educated workforces in the world, leading academic institutions, forward looking programs such as Ontario's Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Network (AVIN) program and unique assets such as the ACE climatic wind tunnel and rolling ground plan in Oshawa, we welcome partnerships with a broad range of manufacturing and technology companies as they create the next generation of mobility and transportation.

However, we cannot rest on our laurels. Governments at all levels must continuously work with the industry to ensure that Canada remains competitive with other auto jurisdictions. The recently announced Ontario government's plan for the auto sector – Driving Prosperity: The Future of Ontario's Automotive Sector - is an example. The plan sets out a 10-year vision for how industry, the research and education sector, and all three levels of government, can work together to strengthen the auto sector. The next step should be to engage all of the stakeholders in a national discussion on economic competitiveness and what it will take to ensure the continuing success of if key industrial sectors.

Mayor Rob Burton Quote:

“On-going competition from the United States and Mexico, combined with technological disruption, are challenging governments and industry to act. The Auto Mayors are committed to working directly with our industry partners and the senior levels of government to make sure that we continue to be global leaders with respect to the development and delivery of traditional, autonomous and electric vehicles.

Mayor Dan Carter Quote:

“The auto industry is at a crucial juncture in its evolution and there is an immediate need to engage all levels of government in a meaningful dialog about what we must do to remain competitive and ensure that we fully utilize the talent and resources that exist in our communities.”

About the Auto Sector:

In Ontario, there are five automotive assemblers operating eight assembly plants. Almost 115,000 people are directly employed and a further 400,000 are indirectly employed in Canada's auto supply chains. The Center for Automotive Research estimates that one job in an automotive assembly plant supports ten jobs in the broader economy. The economic contributions of the automotive industry are vital to the Canadian and Ontario economies, contributing \$15.4 billion annually to Canada's GDP. Over 2 million vehicles are built in Ontario

About the Auto Mayors:

The 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 Auto Mayors, please visit automayors.ca.

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