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Ontario Auto Mayors encouraged by Ford Motor Company's addition of 400 new employees

The Ontario Auto Mayors are pleased with yesterday's announcement by Ford Motor Company that the production of the all-new 2015 Ford Edge would be manufactured in Oakville, Ontario, creating new jobs for 400 people.

"The efforts and actions of the Ontario Auto Mayors are having a positive impact," Oakville's Mayor Rob Burton, Chair of the Ontario Auto Mayors said. "This is an excellent example of partnership and investment between governments and the auto-motive sector that resulted in job creation and will stimulate the Canadian economy. Ford Motor Company's Oakville plant is now in a position to successfully compete nationally and globally."

The Ford Edge will be shipped around the world, from North America and South America, to Asia, Africa and the Middle East. With the addition of right-hand-drive and a diesel engine, the 2015 Ford Edge will also be exported for the first time to Western Europe.

Foreign governments are using increased subsidies and incentives to compete for the development of new facilities which also threatens 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 Center for Automotive Research estimates that one job in an automotive assembly plant supports ten jobs in the broader economy. Funding support in the auto industry through provincial and federal incentives is something the Ontario Auto Mayors have strongly encouraged to ensure ongoing private investments are made in Canada's automotive industry.

The Ontario Auto Mayors have met several times to discuss and explore how to attract automotive investment in Canada. They continue to emphasize the need for a 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.

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