

Auto sector key to economic prosperity in Ontario

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The Ontario Auto-Mayors are reaffirming their support for Ontario's auto sector and the critical role that government policy plays in keeping the auto industry strong and competitive.

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.

Government incentives to attract auto investments

Few businesses invest as much in 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 capital investments years in advance. Government incentives in the form of loans and grants are a part of every auto jurisdiction and are a necessary part of Canada remaining competitive with other auto jurisdictions.

"Capital investment in the automotive industry is imperative to remain globally competitive. As mayors of communities who directly contribute to the strength of the Canadian economy through our assembly plants and associated businesses, we know we drive economic strength all the way from resource extraction, processing, parts making, assembly, shipping, sales, service and other high quality businesses and jobs. We strongly encourage provincial and federal officials to continue to provide incentives to ensure ongoing investments are made in Canada's automotive industry,"

Mayor Rob Burton of the Town of Oakville

Trade agreements that support the auto sector

Ontario's auto sector has benefited from trade agreements that have opened new markets for Canadian-built vehicles. The Canada-EU Trade Agreement announced in October 2013 is an example of an agreement that will provide access for Canadian-built vehicles to one of the largest markets in the world. Unfortunately, the recently announced Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement falls short on many fronts.

"The auto industry is vital to our economy and to thousands of middle class jobs. The auto industry is in a growth mode around the world adding production and jobs in every jurisdiction except unfortunately, Canada. Now more than ever, thousands of Canadians in our communities are concerned about the future of auto production in Canada. This is not a time to add the additional threat of a bad trade deal with a major automotive jurisdiction like Korea. With auto provisions that are inferior to the US-Korea trade agreement, the Ontario Auto-Mayors cannot support the Canada Korea trade deal."

Mayor Rob Burton of the Town of Oakville

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.

The Auto Mayors Caucus consists of:

Mayor Bob Bratina – City of Hamilton
Mayor Brian McMullan – City of St. Catharines
Mayor Carl Zehr – City of Kitchener
Mayor Doug Craig – City of Cambridge
Mayor Eddie Francis – City of Windsor
Mayor Hazel McCallion – City of Mississauga
Mayor Jeff Lehman – City of Barrie
Mayor John Henry – City of Oshawa
Mayor Joe Fontana – City of London
Mayor Karen Farbridge – City of Guelph
Mayor Mike MacEachem – Town of New Tecumseth
Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly – City of Toronto
Mayor Pat Sobeski – City of Woodstock
Mayor Randy Hope – Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Mayor Rob Burton – Town of Oakville
Mayor Rob Ford – City of Toronto
Mayor Susan Fennell – City of Brampton

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