



May 5th, 2022

JF Champagne
President, AIA Canada
180 Elgin St.
Ottawa, ON K1P 2K3

Dear Mr. Champagne,

Thank you for your recent letter and for sharing your questions related to Ontario's auto sector. Below are answers to your three questions:

Manufacturing employment in the province peaked in 2004 and declined significantly by 2018. A re-elected PC government will continue taking action to bring back manufacturing that will create jobs and support families and communities across Ontario. [A prime example of this is, our PC government has reduced the cost to do business in Ontario by \\$7 billion annually and has restored the confidence to invest in our province. We have heard from the business community and have focused on every area that a government has some control over, such as WSIB premiums, taxes and red tape. We also have enabled businesses across the province through our \\$100 million Regional Development Program.](#)

The auto industry has responded to [our PC government's](#) plan to help transform and grow the auto sector, lower taxes, reduce electricity costs and cut red tape. Over the past 18 months, the automotive sector in Ontario has seen more than \$12 billion in investments for new vehicle production mandates and battery manufacturing. These investments include:

- Over \$5 billion for a joint investment between LG Energy Solution and Stellantis to build the province's first large-scale EV battery manufacturing plant in Windsor, supported by [our PC government](#), along with municipal and federal governments.
- \$1.8 billion in commitments from Ford to produce battery EVs and five new EV models at its Oakville assembly complex, with the Ontario [PC government](#) providing \$295 million in support and the federal government making a matching contribution.
- More than \$2 billion by General Motors to transform the company's Oshawa and Ingersoll manufacturing facilities to deliver the company's next generation of vehicles, including new all-electric commercial vehicles, with [our PC government](#) providing up to \$259 million in grant support and the Government of Canada making a matching contribution.
- \$1.5 billion in commitments from Stellantis to upgrade its assembly plant in Windsor to build new electrified vehicles.
- Almost \$1.4 billion from Honda to upgrade and retool its plants in Alliston and begin manufacturing hybrid models, with the [Ontario PC government](#) providing \$131.6 million in grant support and the Government of Canada making a matching contribution.



As of early April 2022, almost \$11 billion of these investments are in transformative hybrid and electric vehicle production and battery manufacturing in Ontario.

Skilled trades workers are vital to Ontario's future growth and prosperity, so it is more important than ever to break the stigma associated with these jobs, simplify the system and encourage employer participation. It is also important to identify and remove barriers for those who do not often consider the trades, such as women and Indigenous peoples, to encourage their participation in apprenticeship training. Our investment of an additional \$114.4 million over three years in its Skilled Trades Strategy include:

- \$73.8 million over three years for in-class training for apprentices to accommodate an increase in enrolment, assist students with accessibility and accommodation needs and support additional in-demand classes.
- \$10 million in 2022–23 to maintain the Infrastructure Talent Accelerator grant, which helps apprentices participating in the in-demand trades train to help build historic infrastructure projects, such as the Ontario Line Subway Project and Scarborough Subway Extension.
- \$15 million over three years for the Tools Grant, which provides increased financial support for apprentices completing their apprenticeship program and receiving certification by helping apprentices pay for their tools and equipment.
- \$6.3 million over three years for the Achievement Incentive program, which encourages and supports skilled trades employers, including those in group sponsor arrangements, when apprentices meet training and certification milestones.
- \$6 million over three years for the Group Sponsorship Grant, which improves apprentice progression and completion by supporting small- to medium-sized employers to come together to train apprentices in the full scope of their trade.
- \$3.3 million over three years for the Apprenticeship Capital Grant to provide supports for Training Delivery Agents to meet the evolving needs of the workplace with innovative technology.

Last year, our PC government passed the *Building Opportunities in the Skilled Trades Act, 2021*, which established Skilled Trades Ontario, a Crown agency created to improve trades training and simplify services.

A re-elected PC government will continue to find ways to put more money in your pocket and to keep costs down for the people of this province. We are the only party that has a track record of success.

Since the start of the pandemic our government took additional steps to reduce the cost of auto insurance for all Ontarians. Our government enabled more than \$1 billion in consumer savings, affecting 93 per cent of Ontario drivers. We know the out of control auto insurance costs won't disappear at the end of the pandemic. Our government is committed to working with the sector and regulator to bring prices down.



In April 2021, our government implemented the *Moving Ontarians More Safely Act* that includes measures to protect vulnerable road users and strengthen provincial oversight of the towing sector. This legislation will create the *Towing and Storage Safety and Enforcement Act (TSSEA)* and will make amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, the Highway Traffic Act, and the Repair and Storage Liens Act. Changes will require tow operators, tow truck drivers and vehicle storage operators to be certified under the TSSEA and meet prescribed requirements and standards. There will also be a process to establish a Director of Towing and Vehicle and Storage Standards to provide oversight.

If you or your members have any further questions, please feel free to reach out. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your organization.

Sincerely,

Ontario PC Party Campaign