INVEST IN CANADA
CANADA’S COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR
CANADA’S AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

Automotive manufacturing is one of Canada’s largest industrial sectors, accounting for 10% of manufacturing GDP and 23% of manufacturing trade. Canada produces passenger vehicles, trucks and buses, auto parts and systems, truck bodies and trailers, as well as tires and machines-tools-dies-moulds (MTDM). The auto industry directly employs more than 125,000 people in vehicle assembly and auto parts manufacturing, and another 380,000 in distribution and aftermarket sales and service.

Automotive manufacturing is highly concentrated in Ontario which accounts for 100% of Canada’s light vehicle production, 400 parts manufacturers and 94% of industry shipments; however, there are also important manufacturing clusters in Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia.

CANADA’S KEY STRENGTHS IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

» Canada has the lowest cost structures and the lowest business tax burden among advanced economies, with an overall cost advantage of 8.2% over the United States and 4.5% over Japan in the automotive manufacturing sector. According to KPMG Competitive Alternatives, auto parts operations based in Canada typically enjoy a 31% labour cost advantage compared to their U.S.-based counterparts.

» Canada’s auto sector is strategically located in the heart of the Great Lakes “supercluster,” which has the largest concentration of automotive manufacturing and engineering/R&D centres in North America (45% of total vehicle production). There are 36 high-volume assembly plants within a 500-kilometre radius of the Windsor-Detroit border; these facilities built 7.4 million vehicles in 2016.

» With more than 100 years as an auto-producing nation, Canada has an outstanding track record of performance and a well-established automotive infrastructure that includes manufacturers and R&D expertise in materials, machinery, parts and finished vehicles.

» Canadian auto manufacturers are recognized for their strong capacity in launching complex and advanced automotive manufacturing projects due to their world-class plant and labour quality.

» Canada is a global leader in emerging automotive technologies such as lightweight materials, advanced safety systems, software and cybersecurity, connected/autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence (AI), alternative powertrains (electric vehicles and fuel cells), vehicle safety and testing.

» Companies such as Apple, ABB, Ford and General Motors have made significant recent investments in Canada to establish their R&D centers in self-driving vehicles, and are working closely with world-class universities engaged in cutting-edge research.

» Canada offers foreign investors excellent plant and labour quality, evidenced by the fact that Canadian assembly plants have won one-third of all J.D. Power plant quality awards for North America, which is nearly three times Canada’s share of regional production.

“GM selected Canada for its clear capacity for innovation, proven talent and strong ecosystem of great universities, start-ups and innovative suppliers.”

— Mark Reuss, Executive Vice President, Global Product Development, Purchasing and Supply Chain, General Motors Company.
RECENT INVESTMENTS

**ONTARIO**: Vehicle assembly, original equipment parts, auto-related MTDM, AI and CV/AV tech

**MANITOBA**: Buses, specialty vehicles, cold-weather testing
- Leading companies include: Motor Coach Industries, New Flyer, Artik/OEM, Carlson Composites, Champ Industries, Thompson Unlimited

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**: Fuel cell EV cluster
- Leading companies include: Automotive Fuel Cell Cooperation, Ballard Power, Canadian Autoparts Toyota, D-Wave, Loop Energy, Mercedes-Benz Fuel Cell Plant, Mojio, Powertech Labs, Westport Innovations

**QUEBEC**: Trucks, buses, light metals, electric vehicle (EV) components, AI and CV/AV tech
- Leading companies include: PACCAR (Kenworth, Peterbilt), Volvo Bus (Nova Bus, Prévost), Blue Bird/Girardin, Lion Bus, ABB, AddEnergie, Bolloré Group, Bridgestone, Cooper-Standard, Element AI, Exo-S, Fluent AI, ImmerVision, LeddarTech, Phantom Intelligence, Raufoss Automotive, Spectra Premium, TM4, Toyota Gosei, Verbom

In March 2017, Ford Motor Company unveiled a $1.2 billion investment plan to transform its Windsor engine plant into a world class facility, and as well as creating hundreds of new R&D positions in Ontario to focus on connected/autonomous vehicle.

In May 2016, Fiat Chrysler Autos (FCA) announced a $1.2 billion investment to its Windsor assembly plant to produce the company’s sixth generation of minivan, including a plug-in hybrid version of the Pacifica.

In October 2016, FCA announced $325 million to rebuild the paint shop in their Brampton, Ontario assembly plant.

In January 2018, Linamar announced $500 million to: support the production of advanced engine and drivetrain components, develop and produce electrified and connected vehicle technology and create a dedicated innovation centre focussed on AI, machine learning and robotics.

In January 2017, Honda announced a $492 million investment to upgrade its assembly plant in Alliston, Ontario to build the next generation of Civic and CR-V.

In June 2016, General Motors announced a major expansion of its R&D team by 750 new engineers and software developers in Ontario, to focus on autonomous and connected vehicle software, controls development, safety, and infotainment.
CANADA’S ADVANTAGES

ACCESS TO MAJOR MARKETS

Under NAFTA, Canada enjoys preferential access to one of the largest and most important automotive markets in the world. With the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the European Union now in force, Canada has guaranteed preferential access to the European markets. In addition, Canada has a free trade agreement with South Korea, its first in Asia, providing a strategic gateway to this dynamic and fast-growing region. These trade agreements allow automotive investors in Canada to benefit from integrated global supply chains and seize new export market opportunities.

HIGHLY SKILLED AND RELIABLE WORKFORCE

Canada has a highly skilled workforce capable of providing a quality and productivity advantage vis-à-vis lower cost jurisdictions. Canadian workers in the auto industry are recognized for lower turnover and ability to problem solve “on the shop floor.” Also, Canadian workers are highly educated and reliable due to top quality education institutions that produce qualified graduates in engineering, machining, metalwork, welding, robotics, manufacturing systems, repairs and maintenance, and tool and die making.

WORLD-CLASS SUPPLY BASE

Canada’s automotive supply base is second to none, with capabilities in virtually every product category. Canadian suppliers are recognized for their best-in-class manufacturing expertise and innovation. Many of the largest global suppliers have operations in Canada and some of the biggest and most capable suppliers are based in Canada, including Magna International, Linamar, Bosch, Faurecia and Martinrea. Assemblers and Tier 1 suppliers in Canada also have access to value chains in the U.S. and Mexico.

CONVERGENCE OF AUTOMOTIVE AND ICT EXPERTISE

Canada’s well-established strengths in automotive manufacturing and information and communications technology (ICT) combine to make it an excellent location to develop and build the connected, autonomous and safe vehicle of tomorrow. The automotive and ICT clusters in Ontario and Quebec overlap perfectly, and provide a unique combination of manufacturing experience and software engineering expertise not even found in Silicon Valley.

With recent investments by BlackBerry/QNX, Apple, Ford, Linamar and GM in autonomous driving research, Ontario is becoming an undeniable automotive R&D hub. Ontario’s ICT cluster comprises over 19,000 firms and is second only to Silicon Valley in North America, with companies focusing on emerging automotive technologies. The Greater Toronto area has the highest concentration of AI start-ups in the world. Automotive companies are tapping into a mature ICT sector of 77,000 ICT workforce spread within 1,750 knowledge-based businesses including multinationals like Microsoft, Oracle, SAP, IBM and EMC-Dell.

The Greater Montreal Area is a vibrant heavy truck and bus manufacturing cluster, and is a global leader in the electrification of transportation, both for R&D and manufacturing. Quebec is the leading market for EVs with 46% of Canadian sales, and is investing to expand its charging station network. Montréal is a leading center of global AI and has the highest concentration of researchers and students of deep learning in the world with almost 9,000 students in AI and related programs. Montréal based researchers have used this expertise to develop cutting edge applications in the area of autonomous and connected vehicles.
Foreign investors in Canada’s automotive sector are supported by a vibrant network of universities and research centres specializing in automotive-related R&D. In addition, companies that develop and test electronic systems and devices in Canada typically enjoy a cost advantage when compared to their U.S.-based counterparts.

**CANADA**

Canada has a strong track record of automotive success with an experienced and collaborative federal and provincial government team that supports the automotive sector. Canada offers generous investment tax credits and funding for automotive companies investing in Canada:

- **Scientific Research & Experimental Development (SR&ED)** provides income tax credits and refunds for expenditures on eligible R&D activity in Canada on wages, materials, some overhead and SR&ED contracts.

- **Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF)** is a five-year $1.26 billion program designed to support innovation activities across all industrial sectors, including automotive. It provides loans or grants to support innovative R&D, technology transfer and commercialization projects, to attract large-scale investments, to facilitate company growth and expansion, and to encourage research collaborations and tech demonstration projects.

- **Export Development Canada (EDC)** and Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) provide flexible financing programs and solutions tailored to support foreign direct investment in Canada.

- **The Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance (ACCA)** offers a two-year straight line fiscal depreciation rate for machinery equipment, providing a rapid return on investment and important cash flow.

- **Advanced Manufacturing Fund (AMF)** is a $200-million program over five years administered by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, which supports investments by manufacturing firms in activities that create new and innovative products or production methods.

- **MacAUTO: McMaster University, Institute for Automotive Research and Technology** (automotive R&D across several faculties and facilities, electric and hybrid powertrains, mechatronics and materials)

- **University of Windsor** (automotive engineering, research partnerships)

- **WatCAR: University of Waterloo’s Centre for Automotive Research** (automotive innovation enhancement and competitiveness)

- **UOIT: University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Automotive Centre of Excellence** (climatic wind tunnel and other facilities)

- **NRC: National Research Council Canada, Automotive and Surface Transportation** (light materials, composites, alternative propulsion, safety)

- **Fraunhofer Project Centre for Composites Research** (composite technologies)

- **CanmetMATERIALS Laboratory** (metals, materials, processing research)

**ONTARIO**

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**QUEBEC**

- **IVI: Innovative Vehicle Institute** (Electric/Hybrid traction, energy efficiency, vehicle intelligence)

- **PMG Technologies** (complete motor vehicle test centre, compliance, validation, development)

- **InnovÉÉ (electrification of transportation, distribution, storage and utilization)**

- **MILA: Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms** (AI, computer vision applications)

**MANITOBA**

- **Manitoba Vehicle Technology Centre** (product and process innovation, engineer training)

- **Composites Innovation Centre** (design, testing, prototyping)
AN ENABLING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

A WELCOMING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Canada is among the best places for business in the G20.

Sources: Forbes, EIU

A HIGHLY EDUCATED AND TALENTED WORKFORCE

Canada has the most educated talent pool in the OECD with more than half of its population aged 25-64 having a tertiary level education.

Source: OECD

LOW BUSINESS TAX RATES

Canada is one of the most tax competitive countries in the G7.

Sources: KPMG, Finance Canada

WORLD-CLASS CLUSTERS OF INNOVATION, WITH GOVERNMENT AS PARTNER

Canada has strong geographic and sectoral clusters, as well as R&D-intensive sectors with one of the lowest business costs in the G7.

Source: KPMG

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Canada’s banking system remains one of the soundest in the world.

Source: World Economic Forum

A GREAT PLACE TO INVEST, WORK AND LIVE

Canada ranked first among 60 countries for quality of life. Canada is ranked first in the G7 and G20 for overall prosperity of citizens.

Sources: U.S. News and the Legatum Prosperity Index

Unless otherwise noted, all values in this publication are in Canadian dollars. The content is based on the latest available information at the time of publication.

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