



Colin Carrie MP Oshawa

Harper Government Delivers on Commitment to Auto Industry

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oshawa, ON, September 19, 2013 – Industry Minister James Moore today announced important funding through the Automotive Innovation Fund (AIF) for the Ford Motor Company of Canada plant in Oakville, Ontario. The investment will help transform the plant into a state of the art, global manufacturing facility and keep Canada's automotive sector innovative and globally competitive.

“Canada's auto sector is a world leader, employing hundreds of thousands of Canadians and contributing 12 per cent of our total exports worldwide,” said Minister Moore. “Our Government is committed to strengthening our economy while creating and keeping high-quality jobs here in Canada.”

“This announcement highlights the Conservative Government's commitment to the auto industry,” stated Dr. Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment. “Innovation in the auto industry is important for enhancing our competitiveness in the global auto market and keeping good paying, quality jobs in Oshawa.”

The auto industry is a key driver of Canada's economy and one of the largest manufacturing sectors. It contributes \$16.1 billion in GDP which represents 10 per cent of total manufacturing GDP in 2012. On January 4, 2013, Prime Minister Harper announced the renewal of the AIF, providing \$250 million over five years (2013-2018) to automotive companies in Canada in support of strategic, large-scale research and development projects. This support builds on the initial commitment of \$250 million over five years, in Budget 2008. Ford is the first recipient of the renewed AIF.

The AIF program was designed to help build automotive research and development (R&D) capacity in Canada and secure high value jobs; enhance the government's science and technology (S&T) and environmental agendas; support the development, implementation and commercialization of advanced and green technologies, and advanced products or processes; and promote long-term economic benefits to Canada including significant job creation/retention.

“As a member of the Conservative Auto Caucus since 2006, I have been stressing the importance of the auto industry not only to Oshawa, but to Canada,” stated Dr. Carrie. “I am excited about the potential it has to strengthen the auto industry, and I was delighted to hear that it was renewed for another five years.”

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