

Resolution: Manufacturing Matters Campaign

Whereas:

Canada's manufacturing sector is a critical part of the national economy: it is highly productive, generates the highest value-added in the economy, accounts for two-thirds of our nation's total exports and spends three-quarters of all private sector research and development; and

Whereas:

Over the last five years Canada has suffered a quarter million manufacturing job losses, across a diverse range of sectors including auto, auto parts, food and beverage, fish processing, shipbuilding, electronics, electrical, rubber, plastics, steel, wood, paper, metal and general manufacturing

These job losses are the result of permanent and indefinite layoffs, bankruptcies and plant closures, workplace downsizing, work relocation and production off-shoring to countries both within North America (the United States and Mexico) and internationally,

The loss of manufacturing jobs has devastated workers, families and communities from coast to coast and restricts the amount of quality job prospects for future generations,

The loss of manufacturing jobs has placed an added financial strain on municipal governments to deliver social services at the local level as a result of increasing demand coupled with an overall shrinking tax base; and

Whereas:

the lack of federal and provincial governments attention to the critical issues of unbalanced and unfair trade, the persistently high Canadian dollar, the deindustrialization of Canada's economy and its associated impacts, targeted investment strategies, public procurement policies and adequate protection for workers, has resulted in a manufacturing sector in a state of crisis;

Therefore, Be It Resolved:

That the representatives of City Council, on behalf of the residents in the regions/districts call on the federal & provincial governments to take action in addressing the impact of manufacturing job loss in the City and in other communities across Canada by:

Identifying the manufacturing industry as a strategic sector in Canada's economic development;

Undertaking a comprehensive review of the causes and consequences of manufacturing job loss;

Adopting a comprehensive and integrated set of economic, fiscal and monetary policies along with a framework for fair trade that will both strengthen domestic manufacturing and protect manufacturing jobs; and

ensuring that all Canadian workers are protected in job loss through the improvements of bankruptcy laws, wage protection, pension protection and enhanced employment insurance benefits.