



DOWNEY DIGEST

ISSUE 37 • APRIL 2024



DANGER
DO NOT ENTER
UNLESS YOU ARE AUTHORIZED
Entry Requirements
Lockout
Hazard - Contact With Hazardous Energy
Control - Refer to Lockout Placard posted at this machine
Minimum - Apply Individual Lock(s)
Other Control Methods
Hazard - Uninspected Start Up
Control - Refer to "Other Control Methods" document posted on this machine
Minimum - Remove & Control Access Key

A NOTE FROM DOUG

April has been an incredibly busy month with important announcements to help better our province and provide critical investments in our future. Our government continues to focus on improving Ontario's economy and infrastructure to prove it is a world leader in manufacturing and supply chain management. These forward thinking investments will help to bring quality high-paying jobs to our region and create further opportunity for growth in our province.

I am excited to share some of these highlights with you in this month's edition of the Downey Digest.

HONDA TO BUILD CANADA'S FIRST COMPREHENSIVE EV SUPPLY CHAIN, CREATING THOUSANDS OF NEW JOBS IN ONTARIO

From mining critical minerals to building cars and batteries, Canadian businesses and workers are attracting historic investments to help secure and create jobs, grow our economy and keep our air clean. In the last four years, automotive and battery makers have announced more than **\$31 billion** in investments in electric vehicle manufacturing across Canada. They want a reliable partner with world-class talent, and this is exactly what we have to offer.

And the world is taking notice.



The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, and the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, today welcomed Honda Canada's milestone investment of approximately **\$15 billion** to create Canada's first comprehensive electric vehicle supply chain, located in Ontario.

The large-scale project will see four new manufacturing plants in Ontario. Honda will build an innovative and world-class electric vehicle assembly plant - the first of its kind for Honda Motor Co. Ltd. - as well as a new stand-alone battery manufacturing plant at Honda's facilities in Alliston, Ontario. To complete the supply chain, Honda will also build a cathode active material and precursor (CAM/pCAM) processing plant through a joint venture partnership with POSCO Future M Co., Ltd. and a separator plant through a joint venture partnership with Ashai Kasei Corporation. Once fully operational in 2028, the new assembly plant will produce up to 240,000 vehicles per year.

Honda's investments in an electric vehicle assembly plant and a battery manufacturing plant in Alliston will create over one thousand well-paying manufacturing jobs in Ontario, with the CAM/pCAM processing plant and separator plant helping to create thousands of additional direct and indirect jobs in Ontario and across Canada, including during the construction phase and across Ontario's leading auto parts supplier and research and development ecosystems.

This investment is a strong vote of confidence in Canada and Ontario's highly skilled workers, strong economies, and competitive business environments.



Canada's auto sector has been an engine of economic growth, driving innovation and creating good middle-class jobs. As the demand for electric vehicles continues to grow, we will attract even more investment and position our auto, battery manufacturing, and battery material production industries as global leaders across the entire electric vehicle supply chain, to create economic growth and opportunities now and for generations to come.

In Budget 2024, the federal government announced its intention to introduce the new 10 per cent electric vehicle (EV) Supply Chain investment tax credit, to attract investment across at least three supply chain segments:

- EV assembly.
- EV battery productions.
- Cathode active material production.

The new EV Supply Chain investment tax credit is the government's sixth major economic investment tax credit and complements the 30 per cent Clean Technology Manufacturing investment tax credit. The government is focused on delivering all major economic investment tax credits on a priority basis.

ONTARIO HELPING FAMILY DOCTORS PUT PATIENTS BEFORE PAPERWORK

The Ontario government is taking further action to help family doctors and other primary care providers spend more time with their patient and less time on paperwork.

The government will allow primary care providers to spend more time with patients by making changes that encourage employers to use other tools instead of sick notes, such as attestations, expanding an innovative program to more than 150 primary care providers that safely uses artificial intelligence to automatically summarise or transcribe conversations with patients who consent to electronic medical notes. This will result in a better patient experience and more accurate records.



These initiatives, in addition to other changes aimed at putting patients over paperwork, will free up to 95,000 hours annually for physicians to put back into their practices caring for patients, including:

- “Axe the fax” to replace fax machines over the next few years to speed up diagnosis, referrals and treatments while improving the privacy of patient’s health information.
- Expanding eServices to digitize more referral and consultation forms so they can be conveniently shared electronically in a timely manner to obtain specialist advice, often eliminating the need for an in-person specialist visit entirely.
- Improving the eForms platform to use more digital tools that make it convenient for providers to autofill and share forms.
- Working with the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) to streamline and simplify 12 key government medical forms that are burdensome, as well as digitizing and integrating more forms into electronic medical records.
- Accelerating the expansion of the centralized waitlist program for surgical and diagnostic services that will take the guesswork out of the referral process and provide faster access to care for patients.

ONTARIO UNLOCKING MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSES

A new regulation under the Building Ontario Businesses Initiative Act, 2022 (BOBIA) will give Ontario companies more opportunities to compete for procurement contracts from public sector entities like hospitals, school boards and universities.

Whether it is a medical supply company in Thunder Bay or a fresh produce supplier in London, several Ontario businesses and industries will now have a competitive advantage that will help bolster their success.



Under the regulation, public sector entities are now required to give preference to Ontario businesses when conducting procurements below the specified thresholds. This ensures compliance with the province's trade obligations. The new rules apply to procurements below a \$121,200 threshold for goods and services in the Broader Public Sector. Similarly, for the Ontario Public Service, the thresholds are set at \$30,300 for goods and \$121,200 for services.

The government anticipates that at least \$3 billion in contracts will be awarded to Ontario businesses through to 2026.

- Every year, the Ontario Public Service and Broader Public Sector spends approximately \$30 billion on goods and services. The province is leveraging this to help grow Ontario's local businesses, including technology and manufacturing sectors.
- Supply Ontario is a provincial agency created to address challenges faced in the public sector supply chain system. Supply Ontario works with partners to transform and modernize the procurement process to benefit the economy and businesses across the province.
- With support from the province, the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters launched the Ontario Made program to promote the many world-class products that are made right here.

ONTARIO CONNECTING COMMUNITIES WITH ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Ontario government is investing in an additional \$6 million in the Provincial Forest Access Roads Funding Program to help construct and maintain forestry roads used for regional travel between communities, the transport of goods and emergency preparedness and response along with providing access routes for the tourism sector and industry. The investment will increase funding for the program to \$59 million in 2024-25.

The Provincial Forest Access Roads Funding Program provides funding for new construction and maintenance of over 19,500 kilometres of public forest access roads and other essential infrastructure.



My office is always here to help with any provincial matters and concerns. While we endeavour to respond to every matter in a timely manner, our team is often busy helping constituents. Take a look at the month so far:



2,786

email contacts



124

phone calls



24

walk-in visits



15

new cases

You can always contact us at Doug.Downey@pc.ola.org or 705-726-5538.