



WHY INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION?

Strategic investment in innovation and technology adoption is the starting point on a virtuous cycle that ultimately leads to more output, employment and economic growth across Atlantic Canada.

Innovation and investment in new technologies improve productivity. That, in turn, helps businesses become more competitive: attracting more production mandates and capturing greater market share.

This leads to greater profitability, and, more money to invest in innovation and new technologies

CURRENT LANDSCAPE

Canada ranks poorly in both technology adoption and innovation in manufacturing compared to other advanced economies.

Underinvestment in machinery, equipment and technologies is a major factor behind Canada's lagging productivity growth.

In the Atlantic region, the gap is even more pronounced. Innovation and technology adoption rates, while improving, are well below the national average. The same is true of manufacturing productivity.

CME REPORT

Unlocking Atlantic Canada's Growth Potential in Manufacturing

A new CME report identifies four broad but interconnected issues that are limiting innovation and technology adoption in Atlantic Canadian manufacturing. Based on direct feedback from businesses in the region

This report offers 15 key findings to help address those obstacles to investment.

LABOUR AND SKILLS SHORTAGES

1. Increase enrolment in manufacturing-related education programs in Atlantic Canada;
2. Develop closer business/post-secondary ties for curriculum development and work-integrated learning programs;
3. Expand the number of skilled immigrants allowed into the region;
4. Address challenges with providing on-the-job training and upskilling; and
5. Provide more resources to expand business management; and leadership training.

HIGH PURCHASE COSTS & UNCERTAIN RETURN ON INVESTMENT

6. Increase tax credits to support investment;
7. Introduce new initiatives to finance technology adoption and adaptation; and
8. Create additional supports for outcomes-based private-sector R&D.

LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT NEW TECHNOLOGIES

9. Enhance existing technology assessment programs in the region;
10. Facilitate business participation in technology demonstration tours; and
11. Increase financial supports to attend domestic and international trade shows.

UNCOMPETITIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

12. Lower the overall tax burden;
13. Remove unnecessary regulatory differences between the Atlantic provinces;
14. Increase investment in trade-related infrastructure; and
15. Work to lower energy prices and other non-tax business costs.

HELPING MANUFACTURERS GROW

For more information, please contact Mike Holden, Chief Economist
mike.holden@cme-mec.ca | CME-MEC.CA