

September 27, 2021

The Honourable Erin O'Toole
Leader of the Official Opposition
Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Via e-mail: Erin.OToole@parl.gc.ca

Re: Congratulations and Meeting Request

Dear Mr. O'Toole,

On behalf of the 2,500 members of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME), congratulations on your re-election and for championing Canadian manufacturing during the election. I am writing to seek your continued support as Parliament resumes in the coming weeks as we work to build a strong and competitive industrial sector right here in Canada. One that creates the goods we need at home and that we can sell to global markets.

Manufacturing is critical to Canada's economy. The sector is responsible for the development and production of essential goods Canadians use everyday and contributes to the communities in which they operate. Collectively, the sector's 91,000 companies, employ over 1.7 million Canadians, generate \$690 billion in sales, and account for 10 per cent of GDP and two-thirds of exports. Unfortunately, our sector is falling behind global competitors with dropping investment, output, and jobs. This, in turn, negatively impacts the prosperity of all Canadians. Together, we believe we can do more, and we are looking to your partnership in the new Parliament to help reverse these trends.

To set a path forward, CME released an election platform entitled [Manufacturing Now](#) and asked all parties to commit to the 2% challenge. The 2% challenge is the simple goal of doubling Canada's share of OECD manufacturing investment dollars to \$50 billion annually. This investment would drive new production, create new products, grow jobs, lower emissions, and make our sector globally competitive. To get there, we need the government to partner with manufacturers on an effective industrial strategy that focuses on getting us the workers we need, stimulates investment in innovation and advanced technologies, boosts exports, and transitions to net-zero GHG emissions.

We would be pleased to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the role manufacturers can play in Canada's economic recovery and growing prosperity. In addition, we would be pleased to host you at



any of our member facilities for a first-hand experience of the sector and the innovation and prosperity it brings to Canada.

In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff directly if we can be of assistance at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis A. Darby', is written in a cursive style.

Dennis A. Darby, P.Eng., ICD.D
President & CEO
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters