



Manitoba Manufacturers' Platform for Prosperity. MANUFACTURING NOW

From the first industrial boom in Canada, CME has advocated for and represented member interests. In Manitoba, CME works with manufacturers to help them grow with support and resources in the areas of Leadership & Executive Support, Lean & Productivity, Advanced Manufacturing & Innovation, Trade & Business Development, Workforce Development, Advocacy & Intelligence, Future Workforce, Safety and Networking.



Manufacturing in Manitoba has a bright future with great opportunities. But success will only happen if there is a strong partnership and shared goals between government and the sector. CME is calling on all parties to support a manufacturing strategy for the province that prioritizes investment, innovation, and prosperity for all Manitobans.

3 BARRIERS TO GROWTH



Get Manufacturers the Workers We Need

Manitoba manufacturers had nearly 2,130 job vacancies at the end of 2022. Over 80 per cent of CME members say they are facing labour shortages ranging from shop-floor labourers to technicians and senior executives, and act as serious impediments to growth. The province needs to create a comprehensive labour force strategy.

Lower the Cost of Doing Business

Manitoba manufacturers pay higher tax rates than in comparable jurisdictions. Manitoba must continue to take aggressive action to close with the gap with competing jurisdictions.

Support Business Scale-Up and Investment

Manitoba needs an targeted strategy for manufacturers for investment, scale-up, and commercialization. As other jurisdictions introduce or increase investment tax credits, Manitoba must keep pace.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GET MANUFACTURERS THE WORKERS WE NEED

1. Enhance support for the Traditional and Advanced Manufacturing Sector Council program to further address more challenging and systematic issues that prevent manufacturers from attracting and developing the talent they need;
2. Establish an integrated labour strategy to fill labour shortages today and train the workers of tomorrow, with a focus on systems under the public oversight. This should begin with childcare and continue through life-long training that is responsive to the needs of employers. Including language training.
3. Enhance the Canada Manitoba Jobs Grant to provide consistency, clarity and responsiveness to the needs of industry and reduce the administrative burden to employers.
4. Establish a tax credit to offset workforce training and development costs.
5. Work with the federal government to modernize and increase economic immigration, language requirements and expand efforts to recognize credentials of foreign trained workers.
6. Accelerate the adoption of a trusted employer pathway to facilitate and expedited process to fill labour market needs, as recommended in the Report to the Immigration Advisory Council.
7. Increasing support for greater awareness of manufacturing as a career option and provide entry level training for under-represented groups - youth, women, new Manitobans, and Indigenous peoples with sustainable, sufficiently funded demand-led programs.
8. Increase funding and visibility for STEM, trades in the classroom and career pathways that do not require a university degree.

LOWER THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS

9. Prioritize steady, reliable hydro-electric supply to future and existing industrial users, including support for expansion plans.
10. Ensure adequate clean energy supply at an affordable cost to support large scale net zero transition by industry.
11. Align corporate and personal income tax rates to leading competitive jurisdictions, raising the basic personal tax exemption as well as the threshold for the top marginal rate.
12. Commit to phasing out the Health and Post Secondary Education Tax Levy (payroll tax) by 2030.
13. Streamline the powers and responsibilities of oversight bodies to ensure no duplication of efforts.
14. Invest in the training and retention of inspectors with relevant industry experience related to their portfolio of expertise; and introduce streamlined appeal process with both regulatory and economic interests represented.
15. Encourage the adoption of Lean best practices with a focus on right-sized, customer-focused cultures across a range of KPIs benchmarked against leading urban centres, globally.
16. Protect and invest in transportation infrastructure to allow for the reliable and efficient movement of goods and people and prioritize investment in trade corridors that link Manitoba manufacturers to customers in North America and around the world.

SUPPORT BUSINESS SCALE-UP AND INVESTMENT

17. Increase the Manitoba Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit to 10 per cent and make it fully refundable.
18. Leverage government procurement by basing purchase decisions on total economic value to the region, not just price.