



January 28, 2025

Bonnie Crombie  
Leader, Liberal Party of Ontario

Doug Ford  
Leader, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

Mike Schreiner  
Leader, Green Party of Ontario

Marit Stiles  
Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario

**Re: 2025 Ontario Election**

Dear Party Leaders,

On February 27, 2025, Ontarians will vote in a pivotal election that will shape the future of Ontario for generations to come.

With President Trump threatening punishing tariffs on Canadian imports, Ontario's prosperity and Canada's unity are at risk. According to a [CME member survey](#) conducted in December, this is already having impacts on Ontario manufacturers and their suppliers, with only 1 in 10 believing they can fully absorb tariff costs, and only for a limited time.

**In that context, we ask all candidates for higher office to go beyond words when it comes to supporting Ontario manufacturers. We want to see your concrete, detailed and workable plans.** There is simply no time for political rhetoric or vague promises, the stakes are too high.

To that end, CME has prepared a list of questions for all parties, asking you to outline how your party would deal with tariffs and deliver a long-term manufacturing strategy for Ontario if elected (please see attached). While CME Ontario will not endorse parties or candidates in this race, we will assess all responses received and make a grade public to manufacturing members (from F to A) at a virtual event on February 21, 2025. **We kindly ask that you return answers to those questions by February 14, 2025.**

In assessing all commitments, we will evaluate the extent to which proposed solutions are likely to lower costs for manufacturers, retain new investments and protect manufacturing jobs.

As you prepare your submissions, we also suggest you pay close attention to the [final report](#) of the Ontario Advanced Manufacturing Council, and [CME's tariff related recommendations for Budget 2025](#). Specifically, we are recommending that Ontario:

1. Expand the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit to secure investment;
2. Provide funding relief to allow manufacturers to continue business in the short-term, and
3. Permanently cut \$1B in regulatory costs.

Finally, where possible, we request that you outline how your plans will be implemented in the short term (first 100 days), medium term (four-year mandate), and long term (10-year manufacturing strategy).

We remain available to hold direct discussions with you and your campaign leadership. To do so, please contact me directly.

Thank you for your longstanding commitment to manufacturing in Ontario. We look forward to a discussion with you in the very near future.

Yours sincerely,



Vincent Caron  
Vice President, Ontario Government Relations and Member Advocacy  
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME)

## DECISION 2025, VISION 2035 – QUESTIONNAIRE TO ONTARIO POLITICAL PARTIES

### Questions to Parties

1. Should President Trump act on his threat to impose tariffs on Canadian goods, what measures would you implement within provincial jurisdiction to support manufacturing firms and workers?
2. In its [2025 budget submission](#), CME recommended that Ontario bring red tape reduction legislation within 100 days to cut \$1B in regulatory costs for Ontario manufacturers. Do you support this objective? What areas of government legislation, regulations and programs should be prioritized to lower costs for manufacturers?
3. Ontario investment in capital and technology adoption has lagged behind the U.S. What kind of incentives would you recommend to address this problem, and which specific measures (e.g. grants, loans, tax credits) will you use?
4. [Ontario's manufacturing workforce has declined](#) over the last two decades, losing 300,000 people since its 2005 peak. Ontario's Advanced Manufacturing Council has also recommended a sprint to address our declining productivity. What measures would you put in place to support manufacturers with their skills and labour needs?

### Assessment Criteria and Submission Process

Each question should be answered in order, using 400 words or less.

CME Ontario reserves the right to assess the content of party platforms and other public commitments to supplement the assessment of questionnaire answers. Points may be deducted for general, unspecific answers, failure to submit and any public commitments that undermines the competitiveness of Ontario's manufacturing sector.

Answers will be scored using the following criteria, with absence of a submissions and public commitments receiving a grade of F, and a perfect score of 60 equalling an A+. In good submissions, proposals will be:

1. Covering the full scope of government action – 10 points
2. Helping manufacturers of all sizes and all subsectors – 10 points
3. Reducing net costs for manufacturers to operate in Ontario – 10 points
4. Improving incentives to locate manufacturing investments in Ontario – 10 points
5. Responsive to short-term needs (including the prospect of tariffs) – 10 points
6. Providing a framework for long-term stability (i.e. – a strategy for 2035) – 10 points

Please e-mail the completed questionnaire in a Word and PDF version to the attention of Pratik Bhalerao, Manager of Ontario Policy and Outreach ([pratik.bhalerao@cme-mec.ca](mailto:pratik.bhalerao@cme-mec.ca)) by February 14, 2025.