

# PRESS RELEASE

**Frank Valeriote, M.P.  
Guelph**



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## **Frank Valeriote demands action for auto sector**

Frank Valeriote, Member of Parliament elect for Guelph, is calling on the federal government to address job losses in the automotive manufacturing sector.

"Canada needs a national auto strategy and a government that is committed to partnering with Canada's auto makers and auto parts manufacturers, said Valeriote. "The downturn in this industry causes a ripple effect that impacts everyone from the line worker to the minor hockey team sponsored by the local car dealership to the restaurant workers across the street from the parts plant. Good jobs, like those found at our local parts manufacturers, are the lifeblood of Guelph's economy. I will be fighting for these jobs to stay in Canada."

Valeriote is calling on the Conservative government to include a commitment to the auto industry in the upcoming throne speech. The Canadian economy relies on the auto industry. Annual automotive exports are about \$100 billion and more than 150,000 Canadians are directly employed in the manufacture of completed vehicles and components and another 250,000 are employed in automotive wholesale, retail and leasing operations.

"With the speculation of an imminent merger of Chrysler and General Motors, we need federal leadership to keep Canadian plants open and auto jobs in Canada. I call on the Prime Minister to meet with the auto sector and engage the provinces in a national strategy to ensure Canada remains in the automotive and parts business. We cannot sit idly by while good jobs go south."

While the Conservatives have all but ignored the automotive sector, Valeriote is proud of the Liberal party's long-standing commitment to the industry with major initiatives such as the creation of the Canadian Automotive Partnership Council; direct investments in assembly plants and in the border crossing at Windsor to ensure the uninterrupted flow of auto products; the creation of AUTO21, a network of Centres of Excellence involving over 30 Canadian universities and colleges conducting innovative research projects to shape the 21<sup>st</sup> century vehicle; and investments in strategic automobile research and development initiatives.

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