



The Advanced Manufacturing Sector is Essential

Why we must move people across the US/Canada border

2020/12/01

Please reference media article & use key messages below to reach out to your MP and MPPS; in email correspondence; on your social media. We can do more together but our strength in is in numbers.

Media Highlights:

[Ontario's Essential Businesses Include Manufacturing](#)

[Ontario Dealers Deemed Essential Workplaces During 14-Day Lockdown](#)

[Manufacturers are Critical to the Regional, Provincial and National Economy](#)

[Manufacturing Companies Pivot Production to Help Out During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Federal Government Aware of Border Issues Involved in Auto Industry's Restart](#)

[Automotive Sector Losing Millions in New Contracts Due to Border Issues](#)

[Cross-Border Personal Mobility in the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

[Border city businesses hit by 'perfect storm,' next few months 'critical': Chamber of Commerce head](#)

Key messages:

- 1. Mold makers & industrial automation companies have instituted excellent workplace health & safety practices, minimizing infection rates in our workplaces**

Supporting facts:

According to the [WSIB Website](#) , the “Machinery, electrical equipment and miscellaneous manufacturing (E5)” has had 34 claims allowed in 2020 to date; this is compared to “Nursing and residential care facilities (N2)” which has 3,089 claims allowed in the same time period

- 2. Mold makers & industrial automation companies are part of the advanced manufacturing sector which relies heavily on exports to the US and contributes significantly to employment and the Canadian economy**

Supporting facts:

75% of total Canadian manufacturing production is exported to the United States

Advanced Manufacturing (mold making, tool & die & industrial automation) contributes \$7.2 billion to Canadian GDP annually

Advanced Manufacturing (mold making, tool & die & industrial automation) employ 58,000 full-time people across Canada

40% of Canada's trade to the United States crosses at the Detroit River border



3. Inconsistent application of CBSA entry rules for essential workers at the land ports of entry like the Windsor/Detroit crossings are resulting in tens of millions of dollars of lost revenue for Canadian advanced manufacturing companies

Supporting facts:

In a survey conducted by CAMM & Automate Canada on November 16th, 45% of respondents “strongly agreed” that issues at the border had negatively affected their business since the start of the pandemic.

In the same survey, \$22.5million in lost business was reported

4. With long sales & project timelines and complex projects at stake, the advanced manufacturing sector relies on consistent access to their customer base in the US.

Supporting facts:

The Canadian manufacturing sector was designated an “essential” business in March of 2020, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inconsistent interpretation of rules around entry admissibility and public health by border officials has resulted in unexpected denial of entry to Canada and irregular orders for quarantine/isolation, as reported by respondents to our most recent survey.

Even though an employee of an advanced manufacturing company may only cross into the US a few times a month (instead of daily), they are still essential workers and should be treated as such.

The manufacturing sector as a whole cannot conduct business fully electronically; it is absolutely essential that face to face meetings, presentations, service & support can take place in order to deliver on projects and receive orders.

5. The advanced manufacturing sector is not asking for special treatment. We are asking for consistent and fair interpretation of clearly defined rules that recognize all of our workers as essential workers.

Supporting facts:

CAMM & Automate Canada have met with MPs, MPPs, government agencies & policy makers to repeat this request – consistent & fair interpretation of clearly defined rules that recognize all of our workers as essential workers.

We have suggested solutions that could be inexpensively implemented by CBSA & PHAC at the port of entry in Windsor, Ontario as a pilot project. These solutions include rapid testing (with corresponding reduction of required isolation periods), pre-certification of employees, workplace certifications and a “employee health passport”.

