

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Transitional Skills Assessment (TSA) – a critical step to help workers in the auto manufacturing industry

Toronto – The loss of thousands of auto manufacturing jobs in Canada is a serious problem that continues to affect our communities. The auto manufacturing industry in Canada is changing at high speed. The Council for Automotive Human Resources (CAHR) is gearing up to take a critical first step to address the current job loss by developing a framework that promotes labour mobility across and within the sector.

“We can not ignore the job loss that continues to remove highly skilled workers from the auto manufacturing industry, like the most recent scenario of the layoffs at the GM Truck assembly plant in Oshawa,” said John Mavrak, Executive Director of CAHR. “Skilled workers are critical to the continued success of the Canadian automotive industry.”

CAHR is looking at how it can help re-engage and re-integrate laid-off auto manufacturing workers by scoping the skills and competencies that are required by a cross-section of employers for key occupations; and provide a reliable, credible career planning and labour mobility strategy in growth areas and sub-sectors of the industry.

“The Transitional Skills Assessment (TSA) initiative will have great significance for workers and businesses in the industry.” said John Mavrak. “We recognize the much needed attention that must be given to the issue of employment loss for auto manufacturing workers and the domino effect it has across the industry. It is our mandate to engage stakeholders and governments to tackle this problem and help laid-off workers find employment in other auto industry growth areas and encourage employers to recruit these workers.”

CAHR is calling upon businesses, labour, educators and government to collaborate and address the current adjustment facing workers. TSA will allow CAHR to assess skill sets common among automotive employers and develop approaches to improve the efficiency of transitions of workers.

As the Sector Council for the automotive manufacturing industry, CAHR was formally established in 2004 as a result of recommendations by the Canadian Automotive Partnership Council (CAPC). CAHR and CAPC act collectively to ensure the future competitiveness of the Canadian automotive industry. CAHR is a non-profit, multi-partite organization, federally funded through the Sector Council Program of Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC).

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To learn more about TSA, please visit our website at: <http://www.cahr-crha.ca/www/site/projects/skillsassessment.htm>

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