



SOLIDARITY WITH OSHAWA

We are devastated to hear the General Motors announcement to close the Oshawa assembly plant. There are over 2,500 union jobs at stake, which impacts all the surrounding communities. Closing the Oshawa plant will hit many others - for each direct job, it's estimated that there are seven spin off jobs that are key to the local economy. GM says it is moving its focus to creating the next generation of low-emission vehicles, but won't assign that production to Oshawa.

General Motors registered \$6 billion US in profits in the first three quarters of this year. It has been the recipient of massive public financial support, particularly after the financial meltdown a decade ago. Tragically, the Harper Conservatives sold off GM shares that came from the 2009 bailout at a bargain price and lost all leverage over investment decisions. Both they and provincial Liberals cut corporate tax rates with no strings attached.

The Ford Conservatives have sabotaged a comprehensive approach to green industrial transition with their short-sighted war on carbon pricing, while the Premier throws up his hands to say nothing can be done to change the GM decision. This is yet another example of corporate greed devastating good jobs and leaving communities which provided them with years of record profits. No politician should simply accept the outcome.

The Toronto & York Region Labour Council sends a message of solidarity with the members of UNIFOR Local 222 and all working people in Durham Region and beyond who will be affected by this callous move. GM should respect people, work and communities, and reverse this outrageous decision.

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