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MEDIA RELEASE
ONTARIO AUTO MAYORS HOLD
FIRST MEETING OUTSIDE GTA

Auto Mayors' Roundtable brings record number of Mayors to City of Stratford

Stratford, Ontario, Canada – November 12, 2024 . . . **The Ontario Auto Mayors' caucus held its first meeting outside the GTA on Nov. 1, 2024, at Stratford's Tom Patterson Theatre, with 45 municipal representatives and industry leaders in attendance.**

"It was a privilege for Stratford to host this meeting, especially as the first city outside the GTA to do so," said Mayor Martin Ritsma. "With record-breaking attendance, this gathering underscores Stratford's commitment to supporting the automotive industry and fostering partnerships that drive innovation across Ontario."

Chaired by **Oakville Mayor Rob Burton**, the meeting featured keynotes from **Ford Canada CEO Bev Goodman** and **PowerCo CFO Brent Hinson**. Goodman discussed the state of Canada's auto industry and the potential impacts of the upcoming United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) review. Hinson highlighted Volkswagen's \$7 billion investment in St. Thomas and Ontario's advantages in green technology and EV supply chains.

MPP Matthew Rae (Perth-Wellington) and **MPP Brian Saunderson** (Simcoe-Grey) addressed the group, emphasizing the provincial government's commitment to economic growth. The 2023 Action Plan working groups provided updates on EV adoption strategies and supply chain resiliency.

The next meeting will be hosted by Guelph Mayor Cam Guthrie in 2025.

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About the Auto Mayors

The Ontario Auto Mayors advocate for policies and investments to strengthen Canada's automotive sector, driving economic growth and innovation. www.automayors.ca

About investStratford:

investStratford is the City's Economic Enterprise Development Corporation and offers full advisory and support services for business expansion, relocation and new investment. It functions as an independent body governed by a board of directors, aligning its goals to those of the municipality. investStratford is committed to advancing the economic future of the City through investment in arts, education and industry. Globally Connected | Community Driven www.investstratford.com

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