



Survey Response: Automotive Industries Association of Canada

1. Will a Liberal government continue to support training for automotive tradespeople and fund programs like SDF to help train and upskill tradespeople?

The global economy is changing, and Ontario has the ability to help all types of workers access new economic opportunities that have the ability to drive transformative change in our society. AIA's Canada's Skills Development Fund (SDF) partnership with St. Lawrence College is a shining example of how different stakeholders can come together to equip workers with the tools they need to participate and thrive in emerging areas of growth.

Ontario's workforce is in desperate need of specific skills for the 21st century economy – with labour shortages plaguing many critical and emerging industries that Ontarians rely on for many necessities, including automobiles. An Ontario Liberal government would remain laser-focused on creating a robust upskilling and training ecosystem for workers and students.

An Ontario Liberal government would create a \$1 billion fund over four years to increase operating grants for new college, university and training programs that focus on upskilling and on-the-job training opportunities. We'll also fund new opportunities through the Canada-Ontario Job Grant and SkillsAdvance, and will create new targeted supports for young people unable to find secure employment.

There are many new skills that employees of AIA Canada's members can benefit from without needing to enroll in a full academic program. That's why we'll invest in streamlined, highly-focused programs called microcredentials to help teach new skills quickly. We'll build high-quality, career-focused microcredential programs in partnership with employers and educators to ensure that programs like AIA Canada's SDF are supported and encouraged by the provincial government.

Using an individual, worker-by-worker and student-by-student approach, our government would enhance the apprenticeship system for automobile tradespeople, working with unions, employers and schools to promote attractive opportunities and make it easier for new workers to participate in an apprenticeship. This includes expanding the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and reintroducing shop classes in more high schools, as well as funding union and employer-led training at more comparable levels to colleges. We'll also give \$2,000 to those who go into apprenticeship training by doubling the existing federal incentive grant.

The federal government currently controls immigration to Ontario; however, we think it's time for Ontario to take over its own immigration and gain control over who we welcome to our province, just as Québec has. Ontario knows best what skills it needs, so Ontario should be in the driver's seat. We need the skills that are supported through AIA Canada's SDF program and want to tap into a new labour force that is motivated to contribute to Ontario's economy and small and medium sized business community.

Lastly, let's not forget about the opportunities that AIA Canada's SDF program is meant to target. An Ontario Liberal government will ensure that Ontario is the top destination to produce, sell and maintain electric batteries and vehicles. We'll leverage our automotive supply expertise to ensure Ontario's battery and electric vehicle manufacturing sector is



globally competitive. We'll also launch a dedicated fund through our Green Jobs Fund to support gaps in the electric battery supply chain and commercialize next generation battery technology and recycling.

2. Will a Liberal government introduce “right to repair” legislation that maintains owners’ access to their vehicle data and to be able to choose where they service their vehicle?

Simply put, an Ontario Liberal government would introduce “right to repair” legislation. We'll target predatory practices and unfair policies from businesses – introducing new protections like the right to get certain products repaired instead of having to buy new ones or take to specific retailers. In developing these policies, we commit to working with industry stakeholders to determine which types of products should fall under the new legislation. We believe it is fundamentally important to give consumers control of the products they purchase.

3. Would you work with the collision repair industry and explore the certification of the collision repair industry?

An Ontario Liberal government would listen to the needs of the auto collision repair industry and review the need for a certification system. We understand that a certification system could bring safety benefits to drivers, require training for new auto technologies, and prevent auto insurance fraud. An Ontario Liberal government would be open to listening to new ways for the province to make a meaningful difference to small business owners and consumers alike.