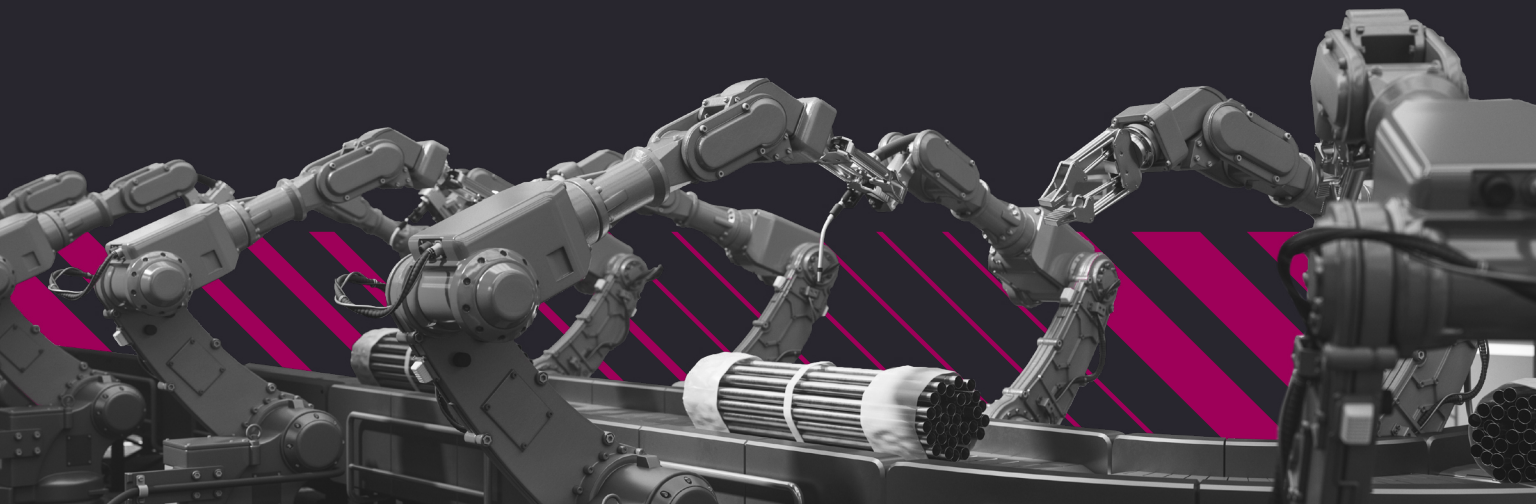




**BUSINESS
COUNCIL OF
TORONTO**

The Advanced Manufacturing Council



1 in 10 jobs

in the province are in the manufacturing sector, accounting for 10% of our industrial capital spending.



10%

of Ontario's GDP and almost 80% of outbound goods are contributed from the manufacturing sector.



\$13 billion

in monthly manufacturing sales in the Toronto region alone.



Only a 3% growth

in machinery & equipment spending per worker in Ontario since 2002 (versus 78% in the US).

The Challenge

The new era of manufacturing is upon us. Fast tracking deployment of new technologies and approaches is key to securing our competitiveness as a region. But slow adoption of innovations and regulatory burdens faced by businesses are preventing our manufacturing ecosystem from reaching its potential.

The Opportunity

The BCT's Advanced Manufacturing Council will work to address our productivity gap by driving projects and advocacy that position our region as a global leader in technology adoption and workforce development. By de-risking investments and making the case for business-led innovation, the region can foster a manufacturing sector that drives productivity and growth across the economy.

The Approach

Below are examples of the types of projects the Council may take on. Council priorities will be developed in collaboration with its members.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT: KNOW-NET (KNOWLEDGE NETWORKING & OPERATIONAL WORKSHOPS NETWORK)

This project would offer an innovative and collaborative “workforce secondment” opportunity, in partnership with educational institutions and the region’s manufacturers. This would enable employees to gain new, technology-focused skills and knowledge.

The initiative would bridge industry skill gaps and support continuous learning, particularly benefiting SMEs and supply chains in adapting to evolving industry and market demands.

Sample projects may include:

- Up-skilling programs to re-train line staff and technicians with a focus on micro credentials and bridging academia with skilled trades.
- Secondment agreements to allow skills and knowledge sharing within manufacturing ecosystems.
- A cross-border industrial survey to identify the strengths and weaknesses of regional manufacturers.

ADVOCACY INITIATIVE: L.E.A.P. PROGRAM (LEGISLATIVE ENHANCEMENT FOR ADVANCED PROSPERITY)

With competing jurisdictions like the United States and the European Union instituting sweeping measures like the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHiPs Act, Ontario must embrace legislative innovation to secure the future of the province’s manufacturing sector.

The L.E.A.P. initiative would advocate for robust public investments to increase the availability of capital investment for manufacturers, reduce red tape, and increase the competitiveness of the region’s economy.

Sample advocacy can include:

- Champion localized ecosystems where startups and established manufacturers can thrive through enhanced tax incentives, streamlined regulations, and state-of-the-art infrastructure.
- New programs to subsidize the adoption of AI and robotics in manufacturing processes, encouraging firms to embrace technological innovation and maintain a competitive edge.

Council Workplans

Throughout the year, each council will meet four times to drive their initiatives forward. At the end of each year, we will host the annual Legacy Leaders’ Dinner where council members will highlight their key takeaways from Year One and next steps moving into Year Two.

Here’s what a high-level Year One workplan could entail:

Meeting One

MEETING FOCUS: LEVEL-SETTING

- Consensus on council mandate toward reducing the productivity gap.
- Identify what success looks like and crosswalks with other Councils.

Meeting Two

MEETING FOCUS: PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

- Prioritization of proposed projects and impact.
- Activation of projects.

Meeting Three

MEETING FOCUS: ADVOCACY AMPLIFICATION

- Prioritization of advocacy items.
- Council to set advocacy campaign strategy.

Meeting Four

MEETING FOCUS: PROGRESS EVALUATION

- Working session to evaluate progress on projects and advocacy items.
- Steer initiatives.