

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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APR 15 2019

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Your Worship
Mayor Jeff Lehman
City of Barrie
70 Collier Street
Barrie ON L4M 4T5

Dear Mayor Lehman:

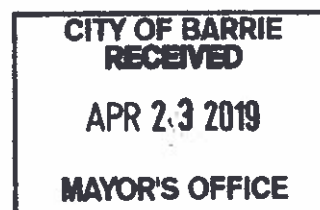
Thank you for your letter expressing the City of Barrie's interest in having lands considered as part of the government's Job Site Challenge - Driving Prosperity: The Future of Ontario's Automotive Sector.

On February 14, the Ontario government released a 10-year vision for how industry, the research sector and the three levels of government can work together to strengthen the competitiveness of the auto sector.

Thousands of people in communities across Ontario work in jobs that depend on the auto sector, which remains one of the province's largest industries. Driving Prosperity will set us on a path to protect and enhance these good jobs. It will also help Ontario's auto industry adapt to changes in the industry. And it will include actions to reduce red tape and the regulatory burden on the sector — which, by lowering the cost of doing business, will increase Ontario's competitiveness in the global economy.

One of the biggest challenges that automakers face if they want to build or expand an auto assembly plant is the availability of large-scale sites for manufacturing. That's why, as part of Driving Prosperity, we are launching the Job Site Challenge. This will identify shovel-ready sites where an automaker could build a new assembly plant that would employ thousands of people — and create thousands more jobs across the province in the plant's supply chain.

We have heard from several Ontario municipalities that are interested in participating in the Job Site Challenge, and we expect to hear from more. We are now in the early phases of developing this program.



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In the meantime, we are happy to provide the following information:

- The Job Site Challenge will be open to municipalities, economic development corporations and industrial developers, for a site of 500 to 1,500 acres that is capable of attracting new manufacturing.
- Program details, including the application deadline and program intake information, will be shared as it becomes available.
- The government is now refining the details of the program. But we can advise you of a couple of parameters. One is that we won't consider any site that is in a sensitive area such as the Green Belt, Oak Ridges Moraine or Ground Water Protection Zones. The other is that the site must be appropriately zoned for industrial expansion.
- We will share more information as it becomes available.

Once again, thank you for bringing your interest in this program to the attention of the government. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister

c: The Honourable Todd Smith
Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
Doug Downey, MPP Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte
Andrea Khanjin, MPP Barrie – Innisfil

