



The Toronto Industry Network

November 22, 2013

EMAILED

Councillor Michael Thompson and Members of
The Economic Development Committee,
10th Floor West, City Hall,
100 Queen Street West,
Toronto, Ontario,
M5N 2H2.

Attention: Ms. Dela Ting

Dear Councillor Thompson and Members of the
Economic Development Committee,

Re: ED27.1 - State of Manufacturing in Toronto

The Toronto Industry Network is very pleased that the City has taken the initiative to produce an excellent report on manufacturing containing recommendations that will help the manufacturing sector grow here. Staff are to be commended for creating such a comprehensive document. TIN wishes to make the following points:

- We are in general agreement with the staff recommendations and would be pleased to participate in a roundtable if invited.
- However, we ask the Committee members to move that the City establish an overarching body that would consult and recommend to Council ways that municipal red tape could be cut for all businesses operating in Toronto. It would be timely to review a number of regulations to determine if they duplicate each other or those of other government levels or are obsolete without changing the need to protect the public interest. The penchant for a regulation for just about everything costs money for the City to enforce and business to comply.
- Many municipalities that have manufacturing as part of their assessment jealously guard these businesses. They care for them like geese laying golden eggs which generate real wealth and are profit centres for the municipality. Toronto must continue to find ways to encourage its manufacturers to re-invest.
- Manufacturers, like other businesses, need a degree of certainty so that they will have the confidence to re-invest. Important ingredients for economic development are good land use policies that encourage compatibility amongst various land uses

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and supporting infrastructure. It is encouraging to read this report in the light of the new Official Plan that will strengthen land use policies for employment lands. A real concern is the many conversion applications for non-employment land uses and existing non-industrial sensitive land uses that de-stabilize manufacturing operations.

- Another concern of TIN is the continuing difficulty of the City to integrate effectively the policies of different divisions and agencies. For example, the proposed LRTs along Eglinton Avenue East and Finch Avenue West could have a major impact on traffic trying to access or leave a number of employment lands. While this is a transportation issue, it has serious economic implications, rests with a number of bodies and needs to be resolved. We recommend that the Economic Development Committee address this issue.
- The City needs to be very aware that America is keen to repatriate its businesses operating in Canada to increase production in the United States. Additionally, American states and municipalities regularly entice our industries to move there.
- Toronto is blessed with a port facility with saltwater access that is underutilized. Some key Toronto industries rely heavily on water transportation. The use of the port could be expanded as is happening in Hamilton rather than re-developing the port with non-industrial and often sensitive uses that could be located anywhere. TIN recommends that your Committee become engaged in this issue rather than leaving discussion to other committees and agencies.
- The good work Toronto is doing to bolster its manufacturing base is being eroded by the rapidly rising cost of electric power which has made Ontario's electricity rates amongst the most costly in North America. This is hurting many of our members and impairing the ability of the City to retain and attract new industry. We ask that your Committee recommend to Council that the City write the provincial government asking to meet the Energy Minister urgently on this matter.

Once again, we commend the Economic Development and Culture division for this initiative and we thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Scrivener
Director of External Relations