

Manufacturing: Confronting the crisis

NDP **BACKGROUNDER**

Whether they're making auto parts or electronics, pipe fittings or wind turbines, manufacturers are the bedrock of our economy—employing two-million in family-supporting jobs. Yet at a time when this sector should be leading the way to a sustainable and prosperous future, Canadian manufacturers are in crisis.

Since 2002, well over a quarter of a million manufacturing jobs have been eliminated or shipped overseas through unfair trade deals. Meanwhile, the jobs more and more families are forced to settle for have them working longer hours for less pay and fewer benefits.

Canada's manufacturing base is being eroded as foreign investors buy up companies that Canadians worked hard to build—shutting them down or moving their jobs overseas. But for 25 years, instead of standing up for working families, successive Prime Ministers have handed these same companies the largest corporate tax giveaways in Canada's history.

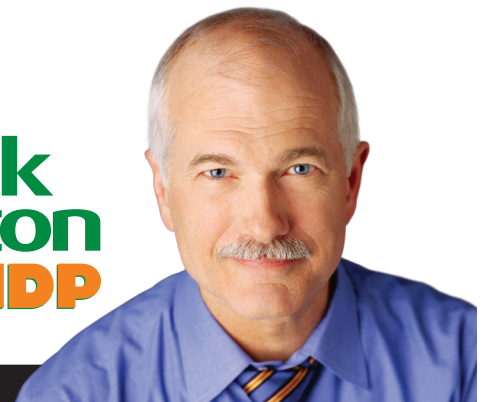
It doesn't have to be this way.

It's time for a Prime Minister who's ready to help secure Canadian manufacturing—by building on traditional strengths and investing in the green-collar jobs of the new energy economy. A Prime Minister who will put you and your family first.

Jack Layton will be that Prime Minister.

Don't let them tell you it can't be done.

**Jack
Layton**
NDP



Stephen Harper can't be trusted.

- After saying Ottawa couldn't afford to "choose winners" by investing to protect manufacturing jobs, he squandered \$50-billion on corporate tax cuts that bypass struggling manufacturers—but subsidize profitable banks and oil companies.
- He instructed his MPs to block a November 2007 motion to tackle this jobs crisis by reviewing unfair trade rules, investing in manufacturing upgrades and improving worker transition programs.
- His Conservative government has rejected exactly one foreign application to take over a Canadian firm—compared to 12,000-plus applications approved by Conservatives and Liberals since 1985.
- Given the chance, he did nothing to spark a transition to a New Energy Economy with green-collar jobs building energy efficiency and renewable energy infrastructure.

Stephane Dion won't take us forward.

- By instructing his MPs to skip key votes, he rubber-stamped Harper's plan to squander \$50-billion on corporate tax cuts instead of investing in working families—and let Harper defeat the November 2007 motion to tackle the manufacturing crisis.
- Even when Liberal governments had record surpluses, they doled out the largest-ever corporate tax cuts without requiring that even one job be protected.

Jack Layton's New Democrats: Putting you and your family first.

This election, Jack Layton and his team of New Democrats have a plan to protect and create family-supporting manufacturing jobs. Already, Layton's team has led the way in Parliament:

- **Supported the November 2007 motion to tackle the manufacturing crisis** by reviewing unfair trade rules, investing in manufacturing upgrades and improving worker transition programs.
- Successfully pressured Harper to stop playing political games with a **\$1-billion emergency fund for one-sector towns**—bringing the Community Development Trust to Parliament for a vote to get the assistance flowing.
- Promoted a **Green-Collar Jobs Strategy** that would lead to tens of thousands more Canadians finding quality jobs manufacturing products such as renewable energy systems and high-efficiency building materials.
- Since 2003, with labour and environment groups, developed and promoted a **Green Car Strategy** to re-position Canada's auto industry as a leader in producing the fuel-efficient cars that the world is increasingly demanding.
- Consistently promoted an **active federal role** to secure manufacturing as the bedrock of Canada's economy and the lifeblood of thriving communities from coast to coast.