

## **March Update - Addendum to Windsor Meeting**

Many of you are wondering what happened during our conversations last week in Windsor. It was meetings for Ford, Chrysler and GM with the heads of Unifor – it was a very small group. The Auto Council Executive Board (which consists of various plant chairs) were also in attendance. We were asking for short and long-term plans for each plant and for GM (and all big 3) to provide assurances to our membership that they were remaining in Canada, and at each location.

### **GM responded with:**

- They are unsure of what Trump will do on April 2 – the Trump administration changes their minds each week, and GM finds it very frustrating as policies and rules seem to keep changing.
- They do not want any tariffs.
- They realize we sell more vehicles in Canada than we make.
- They are disappointed in EV sales; however they remain committed long term to EV production.

### **CAMI specific:**

- They are fully committed to CAMI – we had a long conversation about CAMI and the Brightdrop platform.
- GM stated that they have given some Brightdrops out to different clients in various cities for more exposure of our trucks – such as Red Cross – with the hopes that exposure will help drive sales.
- They are happy sales have increased quite a bit year over year, however they are still below expectations.
- They are very happy with our battery production; overall production, run rates, etc.
- The new roof project was continuing in 2025 and that would hopefully open broader markets.
- They have weekly sales meetings regarding our trucks and are pushing to find new markets.
- They stated Brightdrops will only be built at CAMI and we will remain the only plant to build them.

## **More Facts and More Rumours**

Our production has now been reduced to 25 units per shift. Both shifts are getting the option to go home four hours early every day. Not in any world is this sustainable. GM has been waiting for sales to climb, and they are increasing, but not to the numbers that we had hoped for or need. We are very worried that we are headed for one shift – we don't think anyone would be surprised, yet it would still be shocking and very upsetting. Be very careful right now with large purchases and make smart financial decisions. Our Inplant agreed to rotate the battery schedule for 6 more weeks for one main reason, it buys us more time. There is no use purifying the battery department if we are going to purify the plant a month later. Forcing people to new shifts is lifechanging and can cause major changes with daycare, carpooling, family schedules, etc. To do it once is challenging enough, but to ask our members to potentially do it twice is unnecessary. We bought some time; and we will see what April brings us. As the Plant Chair, I sincerely hope I am wrong about one shift, but we must plan for worst case scenarios.

**Tariffs:** President Trump seems to change policies daily. He has announced tariffs monthly and keeps extending those timelines. If tariffs come, I expect we will shut down at the end of that week – again that is only my opinion; and I think all of auto would shut down within 2 weeks. If Trump is looking for tariffs on auto, then the USA needs to engage Canada and Mexico to work out a resolve – get an agreement and get auto out of the media so the industry continue.

**Trump is wrong** – these are not American jobs – we have been producing vehicles in Canada for over 100 years. We sell more vehicles in Canada than we build. These are Canadian jobs; these are our jobs! Trump's real issue should be with offshore auto companies selling over 5 million vehicles in North America last year without providing one job. If every 250,000 vehicles are an auto plant, that is 20 auto plants that he can pick a fight about; and a couple of those plants should be built in Canada - to level our trade imbalance within the industry.

**Hyundai:** There is no shortage of rumours or news stories about Hyundai. We cannot find anyone who will confirm these stories or rumours. But there is a lot of smoke, so hopefully it leads us somewhere. We have the capacity to expand our lineup, and our members have proven that we can take any new venture and launch it within a very quick timeline.

**In Closing:** These are tough times that we are living in right now, mainly due to uncertainty. Our sales are not strong, an American leader is making a fight over an issue he cannot comprehend, and rumours are running wild. Sales are increasing, but we need more. There are a lot of sticks in the fire, lots of leads, but we need a couple of breakthroughs. We need to see our trucks on the roads, not playing a game of trying to find one "in the wild".

There are a lot of meetings happening. Rumours will continue to run rampant, however we will continue to update the membership as issues become facts.

Local 88 Inplant Committee