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PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN CAMBRIDGE

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(APPLAUSE)

RT. HON. STEPHEN HARPER (Prime Minister of Canada): Thank you very much. Bonjour, tout le monde. First of all, thank you very much, Gary, for that kind introduction, and for all that you've been doing as Minister of State for Science and Technology, for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, and also of course as the hardworking representative of the people of Cambridge. Please, everybody give Gary a big hand for the work he does. (APPLAUSE)

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to begin today by especially acknowledging the presence of Dalton McGuinty on what will be our final meeting in his capacity as Premier of Ontario. I... barring some kind of absolute catastrophe, Dalton, I think this will be the last time I see you in this capacity. Today's announcement is emblematic of the cooperation and shared objectives that has characterized work by our governments over the past few years. In fact, Dalton, you were kind enough to go through with me privately some of those achievements earlier. Dalton, besides all of those things, you are concluding an extraordinarily long period of public service to the people of Ontario, and I want to take this opportunity to join others here in thanking you for that and wishing you all the best in your future endeavours. (APPLAUSE)

Greetings as well to my other Parliamentary colleagues who have joined us today, to the Honourable Diane Findlay, to Phil McColeman, Harold Albrecht, Steven Woodworth, Dave McKenzie, and of course, representatives from provincial and municipal government as well. And lastly, I wish to extend my best wishes to our host here at Toyota Motor

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Manufacturing Canada, and also my thanks for the hospitality shown today by everyone.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, mesdames et messieurs, it is wonderful to be back in Cambridge. Toyota's relationship with this city goes back many years. In fact, history was made at this very plant in 1988 when the first Toyota built in Canada rolled off the line. In fact, I'm told it's right here. It's that car over there, a beautiful blue Toyota Corolla. I guess you didn't have the heart to sell it because it was the first one. And ever since then... But you drive it around once in a while. No? Ok. (LAUGHTER) Ever since then, Toyota has been providing high quality, well-paying jobs for the people of Cambridge, including, by the way, at difficult times, including keeping people employed during the worst of the recession in 2008/2009, without interruption during the terrible Japanese earthquake and tsunami in 2011. Now, that, I think we all have to acknowledge, that is quite a commitment that Toyota has made to this community, and it should be recognized. (APPLAUSE) Of course, on several occasions, our government has been proud to partner with Toyota, as we've worked with the industry to help it become more innovative, more flexible, and more competitive. And today we've been very satisfied with the results of our investments. In fact, in the past two years, we have begun to see once again healthy job growth in Canada's automobile manufacturing sector. As I have previously observed, and I think as I sit here, or I stand here today with Dalton McGuinty and think back to those very dark days in late 2008/2009, and the unprecedented intervention we had to do at that time with, obviously, with the involvement of the government of the United States, but I think that time what we have observed, the rebound of Canada's auto sector is one of this country's biggest

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economic success stories over the past five years. (APPLAUSE) This brings me to the reason we're here today.

Nous sommes ici parce que notre gouvernement est déterminé à créer de bons emplois bien payés pour les travailleurs canadiens à soutenir l'innovation et la recherche dans le secteur canadien de la fabrication, et à développer des technologies plus vertes, plus propres, et plus efficaces.

We're here because our government is committed to creating high quality, well-paying jobs for hardworking Canadians, supporting innovation and research in our manufacturing sector, and developing greener, cleaner, more efficient technology. And so today, ladies and gentlemen, our government will make another significant investment in Canada's auto sector. This latest investment will come from the recently renewed Automotive Innovation Fund. I'm going to talk about the Automotive Innovation Fund in just a moment. But right now I want to tell you just what it is we are investing in.

Ces fonds serviront à aider à rééquiper la chaîne de montage de Toyota à Cambridge, et aussi à lui permettre de fabriquer ici-même les premières voitures hybrides assemblées au Canada.

These funds will be used to help Toyota create a retooled assembly line in Cambridge and allow it to build right here the first hybrid cars ever assembled in Canada. (APPLAUSE) This line will be able to smoothly and rapidly switch between products. One of those products will be the Lexus SUV, the RX 450H. The H stands for hybrid. Besides being the first hybrid vehicle assembled in Canada, the RX 450 hybrid has been, I'm told, up until now only – and I want to emphasize only – built in Japan. But that's changing in a short time. That fuel efficient vehicle will be assembled right here, and

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you, some of the best skilled workers in the world will be working on this very advanced technology that is coming to this country. Congratulations. This... (APPLAUSE) This really is terrific news for the Canadian automotive industry. As you know, our government's top priority remains creating economic growth and well-paying jobs for Canadians, and this project will create hundreds of them.

Je suis ravi de souligner qu'avec les chiffres en décembre, l'économie canadienne a maintenant créé plus de 900 000 nouveaux emplois d'un océan à l'autre depuis la fin de la récession.

I'm pleased to note that with the figures released in December, the Canadian economy has now created over 900,000 new jobs from coast to coast to coast since the end of the recession. And the project that we're announcing today, by assembling a fuel efficient hybrid vehicle, will not only create jobs, but also help us contribute to the government's environmental objectives.

Mesdames et messieurs, notre gouvernement met à exécution son plan pour aider à créer des emplois à la fine pointe de la technologie dans le secteur manufacturier du Canada. Il s'agit entre autres de l'initiative stratégique pour l'aérospatial et la défense, du programme pour l'écologisation des pâtes et papiers, et la stratégie nationale d'approvisionnement en matière de construction navale, et naturellement, du Fonds d'innovation pour le secteur de l'automobile.

Ladies and gentlemen, our government is executing our plan to help create cutting edge jobs in Canada's manufacturing sector. Our plan includes, among other things, the strategic aerospace and defence initiative, the pulp and paper transformation program, the national shipbuilding

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procurement strategy, and of course, the Automotive Innovation Fund. In 2008, we created this fund to help respond to the challenges presented by the global economic downturn, and over the years to come, we will continue to make investments through this fund in projects that create employment, drive innovation, improve the environment, and help us stay competitive in this high stakes industry. As we can see from 2012's near record sales numbers, this fund continues to meet and indeed exceed our expectations. The rebound in Canada's auto sector should make us all very proud and very hopeful. And let me close by saying this. Canadians should rest assured that our government will continue to work hard to help ensure Canadians' families thrive. We will do this by focusing on keeping our economy strong, by creating high quality, well-paying jobs for Canadians, and making the choices that ensure prosperity now and for the generations to come. Toyota's exciting new product is helping us do just that, and I have to say our government is very pleased to be involved.

Félicitations à vous tous.

Congratulations to all of you, and thank you for having me here today. (APPLAUSE)

(1366 words)

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