

**St Catharines NDP Federal Riding  
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# Press Release

**GM to manufacture new electric Cadillacs in St. Catharines? New Democrats think it's a great idea.**

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In a letter to Cadillac's new Canadian-born Senior Vice-president Steve Carlisle, Dennis Van Meer, the NDP Candidate for Parliament in St. Catharines, sees an opportunity to bring back green manufacturing jobs to St. Catharines

After reading of Cadillac's plans to convert their fleet to electric zero-emission vehicles, known as ZEVS, Van Meer fired off a letter to the new head of Cadillac Division in Detroit.

"Sure it's a long shot, but when you think about it, St. Catharines is the perfect place to make these cars. We have a great workforce and a long, proud history of manufacturing. Plus GM is already here and has been for 90 years," Says Van Meer

Van Meer also pointed out in his letter that New Democrats have committed to support manufacturing of ZEVs as part of their New Green Deal for People platform.

"Our vision includes making it possible for Canadian auto manufacturers to produce more ZEVs in Canada, safeguarding good jobs and strengthening our auto sector. We would like to see ZEVs become 100% of new car sales by 2040. Also, we will create a centre of excellence for research and development of ZEVs and support Canadian manufacturing of batteries, energy storage solutions, and alternative fuels like biofuels made from waste," Van Meer said in his letter.

Van Meer noted that a New Democrat government would extend federal incentives for ZEVs and provide a break for working families by waiving the federal sales tax on ZEV purchases. Over 10 years, these incentives would increase to \$15,000 per family for made-in-Canada vehicles.

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“To make ZEV use easier for Canadians in all regions,” Van Meer wrote, “we’ll expand charging networks for ZEVs across the country, and help homeowners cover the cost of installing plug-in chargers.”

General Motors has recently closed plants in other parts of Ontario. However, with the reinvestment in their Cadillac brand there are new opportunities to bring those jobs back to Canada.

“I’ve fought for working families my whole working career,” says Van Meer. “I worked at GM right here in St. Catharines and as a steel worker for 20 years. I know these are well paying, steady jobs that will help us kick start other initiatives like affordable housing, green job training and developing our neglected brown field sites. We’re playing the long game with GM, but if we don’t start now opportunities like this will pass us by.”

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