

# Parliament supports Vehicle Owners' "Right to Repair" by a landslide

## **Bill C-273 makes rare passage to committee for Private Member's Bill. Now hard work begins.**

May 13, 2009 -- The Automotive Industries Association of Canada (AIA) announced that commitment to success by both AIA and the aftermarket industry has resulted in a positive vote Wednesday night for Bill C-273, the "Right to Repair." Early Wednesday evening (May 13) a majority of Members of Parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of sending Bill C273 to Committee 247 - 18.

The Bill was introduced by NDP MP Brian Masse (Windsor West) to create a fair and open playing field for all businesses in the automotive industry. The AIA had actively encouraged Canadians to contact their Members of Parliament to demand all-party support for jobs and consumer choice. In the end, over 10,000 letters from consumers and businesses across the aftermarket were sent to MPs, displaying an incredible ability for the industry to rally when required. MPs from each party were clearly shown that this issue impacts the entire driving public.

The passage of a private members bill to committee is a rare occurrence. For the last four years AIA has worked to ensure that media, MPs and industry players clearly understood the issues.

"This is tremendous news for consumers and industry in Canada," said Marc Brazeau, President, AIA Canada. "Passage of Bill C-273 is crucial to protecting jobs in Canada's automotive industry, and ensuring consumers have a right to repair their vehicle at their place of choice."

Last week, after years of stalling, car manufacturers signed a letter of intent for a voluntary agreement, but Parliament recognized this as a delaying tactic that did not provide a credible alternative. The industry needs to move forward with a permanent and universal solution that is more than just a promissory note.

While there is still a lot of work ahead at the Committee stage, this vote is a clear indication that the aftermarket industry has successfully shown to the Government that a legislated solution is the only real mechanism to get a long-term remedy for the automotive repair and service sector.

At the Committee stage any interested party can challenge the Bill or request amendments. This process will result in the Committee providing a report to Parliament in September.

"Choice becomes even more critical during uncertain times in the auto sector," said Brazeau. Bill C-273 ensures that consumers continue to have timely access to service while protecting jobs in the aftermarket sector."

The automotive aftermarket employs forty-five per cent of the entire automotive industry, for a total of more than 410,000 workers across Canada.

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For further information: <http://www.righttorepair.ca/>

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