

# The Auto Care sector – The engine of affordability



Canada's auto care sector is a vital part of the economy, contributing **\$44 billion annually**, supporting over **500,000 Canadian workers**, and serving communities coast to coast to coast through **24,473 independent repair shops**.

## Keeping costs low for drivers

Independent repair shops are key to consumer choice and lower costs, offering drivers substantial savings vs dealerships.



**Up to 30% in savings**  
for common repairs (save up to \$500)

**Up to 80% in savings**  
for labour-heavy or complex repairs  
when aftermarket parts are used



**10% to 25% lower**  
labour rates

**Pay 15% less**  
for parts

## Ensuring access and vehicle safety, especially in rural communities

Independent repair shops, which make up **80% of the market**, offer **five times more local service options** than dealerships, playing a crucial role, especially in rural communities.

For example, if restricted data causes a young, rural mother driving a Rav4 to lose her local shop, she could:

- Pay **\$460 more** in annual service costs at the dealership
- Spend **\$215 per visit** in fuel costs and lost wages
- Face a **150 km round-trip** for basic repairs
- Experience **longer turnaround times and fewer scheduling options**



**Rural Canadians are disproportionately harmed when repair data becomes inaccessible, as they often face fewer dealerships, longer wait times, and higher costs.**

Source: \*Outlook Study, edition 2024–2025, Automotive Industries Association of Canada, January 2025

\*Unlocking Access: Why Right to Repair Matters for Every Vehicle Owner, MNP LLP, February 2026

\*Automotive data usage, maintenance & sharing, Abacus Data, 2021

## Why Canada needs a Right to Repair framework

When independent shops are blocked from fixing modern vehicles because automakers control the software and repair data, they lose business and their viability declines. The economic impact is staggering, with one lost repair per week cutting annual profit.



**16% in lost annual profit**  
for a rural shop that loses  
one repair per week



**9% in lost annual profit**  
for an urban shop that  
loses one repair per week



**\$336M in lost profits**  
nationally



## Canada is falling behind

The U.S., EU, Quebec are  
advancing similar measures



Australia and South Africa  
have had national Right to  
Repair laws since 2021

A national Right-to-Repair framework will lower repair costs, support 500,000+ skilled workers, boost competition and innovation, and align Canada with global partners.

## Canadians strongly agree:

**94%**

want to choose where they  
service their vehicle

**83%**

say manufacturers should be  
required to share repair data



**Right to Repair is about fairness, affordability, and freedom of choice. Canada needs a Right to Repair framework — now. It represents a win for consumers, a win for small business, and a win for Canada.**

With special thanks:

