

# MANITOBA'S ROBUST REPAIR INDUSTRY IS GEARING UP FOR CHANGE



**YOUR NEW VEHICLE MAY HAVE SPECIAL REPAIR REQUIREMENTS**

Automotive Trades Association – Manitoba Past President Ryan Kehl (left), and President Rick DeDominicis

**I**f you drive a newer car or truck made with complex materials such as aluminum or boron steel, you should be aware of your vehicle's repair requirements.

Vehicles containing complex materials may need to be repaired using specialized skills, tools and facilities. While all repairs must comply with the Original Equipment Manufacturer's (OEM) guidelines, repair work on vehicles with complex materials may need to be completed by an OEM qualified or certified repair shop.

As more vehicles are made with these non-traditional materials, the repair industry is gearing up to meet this challenge by investing in additional training, tools, equipment and facilities.

Kent Ledingham, president of the Manitoba Motor Dealers Association (MMDA), says this new wave of vehicles is driving wholesale change throughout the industry.

"There is a significant investment required for shops to tool up and prepare for this

change in vehicle manufacturing, and this investment is critical to sustaining a healthy and robust repair industry. We are working hard to continue to provide the high quality repair services that all Manitobans expect," Ledingham says.

"Manitoba has a history of quality repairs; it is the only jurisdiction in Canada where all accredited body repair shops are also I-CAR® Gold Class. We have invested in training in the past to be the best, and we will work to meet all new requirements."

As the repair trade works to meet these challenges, Manitoba Public Insurance is supporting the industry by providing shops with access to training to perform safe, reliable cost-effective repairs on these complex materials, and by providing the research that shops need to adapt their operations and infrastructure.

Rick DeDominicis, president of the Automotive Trades Association – Manitoba (ATA) says: "Our members are ramping up to meet these new requirements and be ready as more complex materials enter the market. Our readiness to evolve speaks to how strong our industry is."

Ryan Kehl, ATA past president, says that vehicle and parts manufacturers are driving the trend towards increased use of these non-traditional materials.

"The ATA has been collaborating with our partners, including Manitoba Public Insurance, to prepare for this shift in the repair world," Kehl says.

**“ Our readiness to evolve speaks to how strong our industry is. ”**

Amid this change, the focus of Manitoba Public Insurance remains on safety for Manitoba drivers, says Ward Keith, Manitoba Public Insurance vice-president, Business Development & Communications and Chief Product Officer (acting).

"At Manitoba Public Insurance, our mission is 'working with Manitobans to reduce risk on the road.' This includes assisting the repair industry by working to support industry standardized training and reduce those training expenses where we can. This will ensure Manitobans continue to have access to safe, quality repairs," Keith says.

"It also includes assisting owners of vehicles with complex materials in finding qualified repair services. To that end, we've posted a list of repair shops that meet the manufacturer standards at [mpi.mb.ca](http://mpi.mb.ca)."

## DID YOU KNOW?

**I** The Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) is the company that made the original vehicle part – it can be the vehicle manufacturer or the maker of a specialized component.

**I** If you have a vehicle that contains complex materials, you may need to have it repaired at an OEM-qualified or certified repair shop.

**I** A growing number of new vehicles are being manufactured with complex materials, such as advanced high-strength steel, aluminum and carbon fibre. In fact, by 2018, it is anticipated that half of the Manitoba fleet will contain vehicles with at least some complex materials.

**I** I-CAR® Canada is the premiere training and recognition program providing skills updating for the collision repair industry. It is operated by the Automotive Industries Association of Canada.

**I** To find out if your vehicle may need to be repaired at an OEM-qualified or certified repair shop, a list of these shops is available at [mpi.mb.ca](http://mpi.mb.ca), or you can contact your dealer for assistance.

