



**CANADA'S**



**REPORT TO CONGRESS**

**Les Payne**

**Canadian Pattern-Modelmakers Association**

***10th International Pattern Model Making Congress  
Paris, France - June 2006***

# **GREETINGS:**



Greetings to the International group of Pattern-Model making shop owners assembled here today in “Gay Paris” for the 10th International Congress.

It has been 18 years since the 4th International Congress was held here in Paris ... we have seen many changes over the years, least of all to the meaning and understanding of the word “GAY”.

On behalf of our small Canadian group, I wish to express our appreciation and thanks to the French pattern-model makers association and its organizing committee for all their efforts in hosting this 10th International Congress.

# ASSOCIATION:



- The Canadian Pattern-Modelmakers Association (CPMA) is a separate and small association with the Canadian Tooling & Machining Association (CTMA). The CTMA itself has an affiliation with the Canadian Machine, Tool, Die & Mould Federation (CMTDMF) and is also Canada's representative in the International Special Tooling & Machining Association (ISTMA). ISTMA has 24 member countries with Jean Louis Ravourdin of France as its current President.
- The CTMA has 160 member companies with approximately 15,000 employees who are mainly tool & die makers and mould makers. Visit [www.ctma.com](http://www.ctma.com) for more information.

# ECONOMIC SITUATION:

- The general economy in Canada has been excellent for a number of years with construction, aerospace, natural resources, oil & gas being the leading sectors.
- Currency exchange rates continue to erode profits for manufacturers and as a result of this we see job losses and closures due to a higher Canadian dollar. We believe this trend will continue over the short-term.



<u>Population</u>	
1st quarter 2006	32,422,919
<u>Unemployment rate</u>	
April 2006	6.4 %
<u>Inflation rate</u>	
April 2006	2.4 %
<u>Real GDP</u>	
March 2006, % change	0.1 %
<u>Exports</u>	
1st quarter 2006, % change	-0.2 %
<u>Imports</u>	
1st quarter 2006, % change	-0.4 %
<u>Exchange rate</u>	
April 2006 - \$CAN buys US\$	0.8743
<u>Prime interest rate</u>	
April 2006	5.75 %
<u>S&amp;P/TSX Composite Index</u>	
April 2006 (1975=1000)	12,204.17
<u>Federal debt</u>	
2005 - \$ millions	499,863.0
<u>Retail sales</u>	
March 2006 , % change	1.5 %
<u>Housing starts</u>	
April 2006, thousands	217.9
<u>Composite leading indicator</u>	
April 2006, % change	0.5 %



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Source: Statistics Canada

## **PATTERN & FOUNDRY SECTOR:**



- Many foundries in North America are supplying their traditional customers with imported castings from low-cost countries.
- A number of very large pattern shops have closed recently as a result of reduced foundry business needs. We believe this trend will continue.

## WAGES:



- The basic work week remains at 40 hours with 2 weeks vacation per year.
- Rates of pay for patternmakers has remained stagnant at \$25.00/hour CAD with shop charge-out rates at approximately \$65.00/hour CAD, plus material costs.

## INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL TOOLING & MACHINING ASSOCIATION:



- Should our international group of pattern-model makers fail to locate a future host country for our next congress, may I suggest we consider revisiting my suggestion from 1998, where I suggested that we look at some sort of association with ISTMA.
- The ISTMA Board approved of this suggestion in Amsterdam in 1998.
- The next ISTMA-World Conference will be in Joensuu, Finland, June 11-15, 2007.