

**INPUT FROM CANADIAN NGOS TO THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO CSD 18-19
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Appendix B: The Auto Industry Through the Lens of SCP

The auto industry, an important economic sector in Canada, offers a prime example of how an SCP lens can be used to tie the CSD themes of transportation, mining, waste and chemicals together.

We can begin by looking at one of the industry's early life-cycle stages – extraction – in which minerals are mined to produce metallic parts and other components. This requires energy and leads to waste (tailings; emissions), the destruction of habitat and resources, erosion, water pollution, and impacts on communities.

The assembly of the car has social and ecological impacts: this process creates employment but also produces emissions and waste – directly through the raw materials used, and indirectly through the energy required to power the assembly lines and factories – impacting ecosystems and our health. Some materials can be recycled and used as inputs, but recycling inevitably requires energy to transport, transform and refine materials.

Cars are then marketed by private firms through aggressive campaigns (TV ads, billboards, radio, newspaper, etc.).

After purchase, car use produces great amounts of waste: used oil, break dust, climate-change causing CO2 emissions, respiratory-problem causing NOx and other particulate matter emissions. The car also uses up precious fossil fuels, contributes to urban sprawl and the paving over of agricultural land, leads to congested roads and lost time, and uses public finances to pay for infrastructure and health consequences.

The end of a car's life adds further pollution to the environment, in spite of any component recycling. Underpinning this lifecycle are the investment decisions of the auto industry as to what to manufacture (hybrid; SUV; electric; etc.) and what business model to adopt, as well as the decisions of investors. Overall, the auto industry operates within the framework of our society's values as expressed through the types, models and number of vehicles created by our purchasing decisions, laws and regulations, fiscal instruments and public expenditures.

Private automobiles themselves reflect a societal value to prioritize moving people and goods through one mode over others such as public transportation and rail.