

April 15, 2021

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Cc: Premiers of Canada
Hon. Erin O'Toole, P.C., M.P.
Yves-François Blanchet, M.P.
Jagmeet Singh, M.P.
Annamie Paul

Dear Prime Minister:

As industry associations representing Canadian businesses that provide millions of jobs in almost every economic sector, we remain gravely concerned about the announcement of labour action at the Port of Montreal.

The Port of Montreal is a crucial link in the success of all sectors of the economy given its position within supply routes in Atlantic Canada, Quebec, and Ontario. However, the uncertainty surrounding ongoing labour negotiations between the Maritime Employers' Association (MEA) and CUPE Local 375 has forced many businesses to alter their trade routes away from the Port of Montreal. A recent survey by Electro-Federation Canada revealed that over 70% of respondents have diverted their cargo to other ports in Canada. This creates congestion at points of entry that are already suffering severe bottlenecks.

At a time when supply chains are already at their most fragile due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these conditions are extremely unfavourable to any attempts at economic recovery.

This kind of uncertainty threatens Canada's international reputation as a trading partner and continues to create significant uncertainty for businesses who rely on the Port as a major supply route. We continue to call on the federal government to use all tools at its disposal to bring an end to the disruption and ensure that the public interest is the paramount concern.

Should you require any further information concerning the damaging impact of the partial strike and our request for government intervention, we would be pleased to assist in any way.

Sincerely,

Hon. Perrin Beatty, P.C., O.C.
President and Chief Executive Officer Canadian
Chamber of Commerce

Luke Chapman
Interim President
Beer Canada

John Corey
President
Freight Management Association

Sandy MacLeod
President & CEO
Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of
Canada

Shannon Coombs
President
Canadian Consumer Specialty Products
Association

Dan Kelly
President and Chief Executive Officer Canadian
Federation of Independent Business

Ralph Suppa
President and General Manager
Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating

Bruce Rodgers
Executive Director
Canadian International Freight Forwarders
Association

Jim Keon
President
Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association

Dennis Darby
President and Chief Executive Officer Canadian
Manufacturers and Exporters

Ron Lemaire
President
Canadian Produce Marketing Association

Brian Kingston
President and Chief Executive Officer Canadian
Vehicle Manufacturers' Association

Carol McGlogan
President and Chief Executive Officer Electro-
Federation Canada

Michael Graydon
Chief Executive Officer
Food, Health, and Consumer Products Canada

Derek Nighbor
President and Chief Executive Officer
Forest Products Association of Canada

Kim Campbell
Chair
Importers and Exporters Canada

Lisa Kowalchuk
Executive Director
Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce

Pierre Gratton
President and Chief Executive Officer
Mining Association of Canada

David Wojcik
President and Chief Executive Officer Mississauga Board of
Trade

Greg Cherewyk
President
Pulse Canada

Cathy Campbell
President
Responsible Distribution Canada

Diane J. Brisebois
President and Chief Executive Officer
Retail Council of Canada

Christian Buhagiar
President and Chief Executive Officer
Supply Chain Canada