

March 11, 2022

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan Jr., P.C., M.P.
Minister of Labour
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Via email: seamus.oregan@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister,

As representatives of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector, we look forward to working with you and your officials on issues affecting this vital contributor to Canada's economic growth and prosperity.

We are writing today with regard to the imminent work stoppage at the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) operations. We are mindful and appreciative of the need to respect the collective bargaining process and of the mediation efforts being made at present. However, we want to alert you to the need for a speedy response to this situation, in light of the serious consequences that this work stoppage would have on our sector. Indeed, our sector has already been severely impacted, and any supply chain disruption should be understood in that context.

Canada's agricultural sector relies heavily on the rail transport of our crop inputs (e.g. fertilizer, pesticide products), cattle feed, energy supplies (e.g., propane) and commodities (e.g. grains and meats) by rail. Any disruption to this essential service can lead to loss of markets, crops and cattle feed, which in turn could have a negative impact on animal welfare. All or any of these issues will have a significant effect on our farm families and on those employed throughout the supply chain.

We respectfully ask that you pursue all avenues within your authority to help bring the talks between Teamsters Canada Rail Conference and CPR to a rapid, successful conclusion. This includes strongly encouraging the two parties to voluntarily agree to binding arbitration.

Thank you for considering our request to act expeditiously in preventing a work stoppage at CPR.

Sincerely,

Please see attached signature page of groups supporting this request.

Cc: Minister of Transport, TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca
Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food, aafc.minister-ministre.aac@canada.ca
Deputy Minister of Labour, sandra.hassan@labour-travail.gc.ca



Association of Equipment Manufacturers



Canada Grains Council



Canadian Canola Growers Association



Canadian Cattlemen's Association



Canadian Federation of Agriculture



Canadian Pork Council



Canadian Produce Marketing Association



Canola Council of Canada



Croplife Canada

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Western Equipment Dealers Association



Western Grain Elevator Association

Western Grain Elevator Association