

July 11, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
Via email: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you today regarding the strike by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada (ILWUC) against the 30 ports represented by the B.C. Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) that began on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The signatories below are mindful of the need to respect the collective bargaining process. While we are appreciative of accommodations that have been made to ensure certain commodities continue to be shipped, we would recommend that these accommodations be extended to the movement of all agricultural products, including perishable products, during labour disputes. In the meantime, we want to alert you to the need for an immediate response to this situation, in light of the serious consequences that this strike has already had and will continue to have for as long as this work stoppage persists on our sector.

Canada's agri-food export and import sector relies heavily on the efficient transportation of goods. A lengthy disruption to this essential service will lead to loss of perishable goods and could have a negative impact on animal welfare. Loss of export sales will have a significant and negative effect on our farm families and on those employed throughout our supply chain.

We respectfully ask that the Government of Canada pursue all avenues within its authority to help bring the negotiations between ILWUC and BCMEA to a rapid and successful conclusion. This includes strongly encouraging the two parties to enter into voluntary binding arbitration.

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Thank you for considering our request to act expeditiously in bringing the labour dispute to a timely end.

Sincerely,

Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance  
Canadian Canola Growers Association  
Canadian Cattle Association  
Canadian Federation of Agriculture  
Canadian Meat Council  
Canadian Pork Council  
Canadian Potato Council  
Canadian Produce Marketing Association  
Canadian Oilseeds Processors Association  
Canola Council of Canada  
CropLife Canada  
Fertilizer Canada  
Food, Health and Consumer Products of Canada  
Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada  
Global Cold Chain Alliance  
Grain Growers of Canada  
Pulse Canada  
Soy Canada  
Spirits Canada

c.c. Hon. Seamus O'Regan, P.C., M.P., Minister of Labour  
Hon. Omar Alghabra, P.C., M.P., Minister of Transport  
Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Hon. Mary Ng, P.C., M.P., Minister of International Trade