

July 12, 2023

The Honorable Omar Alghabra  
Minister of Transportation Government of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON, KIA 0A6

**RE: Urgent Intervention Required to Resolve the B.C. Port Strike**

Dear Minister Alghabra,

I write on behalf of the NSBA – Saskatoon's Business Association, representing over 740 businesses in Saskatoon and beyond. As a member-driven organization, we strive to serve, protect and promote the interest of our members and businesses at large, which is why we write to you today.

The NSBA requests your immediate attention and urges your intervention in the ongoing strike between the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Canada at the Port of Vancouver. The timely resolution of this strike is crucial to prevent severe repercussions for Saskatchewan's economy, western Canada's economy, and, ultimately, Canada's economy.

The impact of this ongoing labour dispute is already being felt across various sectors, and its adverse effects will only deteriorate if left unresolved. As an exporting and landlocked province, Saskatchewan heavily relies on the Port of Vancouver as a vital gateway for our goods to reach global markets. Approximately 95 percent of the potash produced in Canada, a significant portion of which originates from Saskatchewan, flows through the Port of Vancouver. The ongoing strike has compelled Nutrien, a major player in the potash industry, to curtail production at its Cory potash mine due to supply chain disruptions caused by the strike.

The consequences of the strike are not limited to the potash industry alone. Saskatchewan's diverse economy, encompassing agriculture, manufacturing, and other sectors, heavily depends on efficient and uninterrupted access to international markets. As a crucial trade hub, the Port of Vancouver facilitates the movement of goods worth approximately \$305 billion annually. Moreover, port activities contribute a substantial \$11.9 billion to Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The disruption caused by the strike puts these economic contributions at risk, with detrimental implications for businesses and consumers across the nation.

We ask that you and the federal government take swift and decisive action to bring an end to the B.C. port strike. We understand the complexities involved in labour negotiations, but the urgency of this situation cannot be overstated. The longer the strike persists, the more severe the damage inflicted upon our supply chains and the cost of living for Canadians. Moreover, it undermines Canada's reputation as a reliable trading partner and the ability to meet international obligations and market demands.

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NSBA respectfully requests that your office actively engages with the BCMEA and ILWU Canada to facilitate productive negotiations and encourage a fair resolution that safeguards the interests of all parties involved. We believe your intervention will restore stability to the Port of Vancouver and provide much-needed relief to businesses and workers in Saskatchewan, western Canada, and throughout the country.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your swift and effective action to protect the economic prosperity of our province, region and nation.

Sincerely,



Keith Moen,

Executive Director

Cc: Hon. Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Labour