

November 19, 2024

Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos
Minister of Public Service and Procurement
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada, K1A 0A6

Re: Dispute between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers

Dear Minister Duclos,

The NSBA – Saskatoon’s Business Association is a member-driven and focused organization that serves, promotes, and protects business throughout Saskatoon and beyond. Although our origins and roots are in Saskatoon's north end, today we encompass far more than that. From its grassroots origins of a handful of businesses, today the NSBA membership consists of over 750 businesses, ranging from single owner-operator proprietorships to large multinational corporations that employ thousands. Despite this diversity, there is a core element in the NSBA membership centered on industrial service and supply.

That being said, I am writing on behalf of our 750-plus members to provide our perspective on the critical issue of maintaining postal service in Canada.

Importance of Continued Postal Services

This disruption poses significant challenges for many of Saskatchewan’s small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), which rely heavily on Canada Post for their daily operations. You may be aware that 98.9% of businesses in Saskatchewan are small businesses, and the majority of them rely on Canada Post to reach their customers. For many, it is the primary or only option for shipping products, especially in rural areas. Without access to this critical service, businesses are forced to turn to alternative shipping methods, which are often more expensive.

Most SMEs also lack extensive logistics networks, leaving them with few options to navigate this disruption. These added costs and challenges strain their operations, making it harder to compete during an already busy holiday season.

Even short-term disruptions can lead to significant financial losses and operational challenges for our members and businesses. For instance, delays in shipping for SMEs during peak seasons can

result in missed market opportunities. Similarly, manufacturing sectors rely on just-in-time delivery systems, and any interruption can halt production lines, leading to workforce reductions and added economic challenges.

The timing of the disruption is also very unfortunate. As we approach the busy holiday season, this is another hit to businesses that are finding it increasingly hard to keep their doors open. Furthermore, this work stoppage adds yet another layer of disruption to our national supply chains, which are already struggling from the recent shutdowns of our ports.

The broader economic impact of a labour disruption at Canada Post extends beyond individual businesses. It affects the overall economic health of our province, potentially leading to job losses, reduced economic output, and decreased tax revenues. Such outcomes would be detrimental not only to businesses but also to the communities they support.

In closing, the NSBA strongly advocates for the continuation of essential postal services during labour disruptions to protect the economic well-being of Saskatchewan and Canada as a whole. Ensuring that critical goods and commodities can still be transported is essential to maintaining economic stability, and environmental sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this critical issue. We appreciate the government's efforts to consider the broader impacts of postal service disruptions.

Sincerely,



Keith Moen
Executive Director