



29 June 2023

Honourable Seamus O'Regan
Minister of Labour
Ottawa, ON

Honourable Omar Alghabra
Minister of Transport
Ottawa, ON

Dear Ministers,

We are writing on behalf of the Shipping Federation of Canada, which is the national association that represents the owners, operators and agents of the ocean-going ships that carry Canada's exports and imports to and from world markets, to express our grave concern over the possibility of a work stoppage at Canada's west coast ports.

As you are aware, the west coast longshore workers represented by ILWU Canada have served 72-hour notice of their intention to strike as of 8:00 AM on July 1, 2023 if a settlement with the BC Maritime Employers Association is not reached. It is our understanding that both parties remain at the bargaining table and continue to work with the assistance of the federal mediation service. Given that this is the best means of reaching a settlement and avoiding a highly consequential labour disruption, we strongly urge the government to do everything in its power to help the parties come to an agreement within the next 24 hours.

Approximately 25 percent of Canada's total traded goods, representing over \$800 million worth of cargo, flow through the Ports of Vancouver and Prince Rupert on a daily basis. A labour disruption at these ports would have ramifications across wide swaths of the Canadian economy, including the manufacturing, retail, agriculture, automotive and energy sectors, all of which rely on the efficient movement and delivery of cargoes to and from international markets to sustain their operations.

We have already seen signs that goods destined to Canada are being rerouted to other ports and gateways to avoid the possibility of a labour disruption, adding costs and furthering eroding Canada's reputation as a reliable trade gateway. An actual work stoppage at these ports would deal a major blow to Canada's transportation supply chain, at a time when the system is still recovering from the effects of the pandemic and other major shocks, and when the Canadian economy is already under significant inflationary pressure.

Given the very high stakes involved, we again urge the government to use every tool at its disposal to assist the parties in reaching a negotiated settled, and to be prepared to take immediate action should a work stoppage occur.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Hall", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chris Hall, President and CEO

SHIPPING FEDERATION OF CANADA

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