



November 22, 2019

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC, MP
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, Canada K1A 0A6

RE: CN Rail Strike Damaging Canadian Economy

Dear Prime Minister:

As you are aware, the ongoing dispute between the Canadian National Railway (CN) and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference is creating major difficulties for businesses, public sector institutions and Canadian families.

Our member companies collectively employ millions of Canadians, represent every industrial sector of the economy, and rely on CN to move Canada's goods to market. This work stoppage is inflicting serious damage on the economy, and countless good Canadian middle-class jobs are at risk, many of them in industries that depend upon the ability to get their goods, parts and ingredients to market by rail. Redirecting shipments to other modes of transport is often impossible, resulting in the collapse of domestic and global supply chains and the loss of current and future business.

CN has indicated that it is willing to agree to binding arbitration by a neutral arbitrator. We ask the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference to agree to this proposed process. We do not take sides regarding the negotiating positions of CN or the union. Instead, we call upon both parties to put the wellbeing of all Canadians ahead of all other concerns.

If CN and the union are unable to agree on this process, the government must work with other political parties to pass back-to-work legislation at the earliest possible opportunity. While we would strongly prefer a negotiated agreement, the mounting damage to the Canadian economy requires immediate action.

For every day that rail service is shut down, it takes three to four days to make up the lost time. That reality means that, as of today, we are weeks away from this key service to returning to normal. Given the deep interdependence throughout the North American supply chain, as well as the critical role rail plays in our country's intercontinental trade, the Canadian economy simply cannot afford to wait further.

It is imperative that the government signal its willingness to take any action necessary to get the Canadian economy moving again if the two parties do not immediately take steps to end this dispute.

We stand ready to assist the government in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Perrin Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Honourable Perrin Beatty, PC, OC
President & Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis A. Darby". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dennis A. Darby, P.Eng., ICD.D
President & Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters