

April 13, 2021.

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Subject: Port of Montreal – Longshore Workers Labour Dispute

Dear Prime Minister,

This is a follow up to our letter of February 22, 2021 addressed to the Hon. Filomena Tassi, Minister of Labour.

Recent actions by the Maritime Employers Association (MEA) and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 375, representing the longshore workers, which has led to a partial strike, is resulting in a significant deterioration in service at the Port of Montreal. This will have a major negative impact on the Canadian economy.

The parties have now been negotiating for over 30 months, much of it with the help of the Labour Canada mediation service. Given this long period of negotiation with no settlement in sight, and with a partial strike now started, it is time for the federal government to take action.

It is the role of government to protect the broader public interest when private interests are causing wide-spread damage to the economy. It is no longer adequate for you and your cabinet colleagues to state that you expect the parties to come to a negotiated settlement.

The Freight Management Association of Canada and its member companies are asking you and your cabinet colleagues to impose binding arbitration on the parties and consider longer-term action to prevent future labour disputes from damaging vital supply chains.

FMA continues to be available to discuss this dire situation with you and your officials.

Sincerely,



John Corey, CPA, CA President, FMA



R.H. Ballantyne, P.Eng. Special Advisor, FMA

The Freight Management Association of Canada (FMA), The National Voice of the Shipper, is the national industry association that promotes legislation through advocacy focusing specifically on freight transportation issues by all modes. FMA represents the interests of the Canadian shipper community to help achieve positive change that will directly affect a company's bottom line. The primary role is advocacy on behalf of the buyers of freight transportation with all levels of government, carrier groups and with foreign governments and international agencies.

Cc: Hon. Filomina Tassi, Minister of Labour
Hon. Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport
Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon. Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources
Hon. Francois- Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

Hon. Erin O'Toole, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party
Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Quebecois

François Legault, Premier of Quebec
Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

FMA Membership