

August 10, 2020

The Honourable Filomena Tassi
Minister of Labour
140 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, Quebec, K1A 0J9

Subject: Port of Montreal – Longshore Workers Strike

Dear Minister Tassi:

On Friday, August 7, CUPE 375, representing the Longshore workers at the Port of Montreal, issued a 72-hour strike notice to the Maritime Employers Association (MEA) for a strike of indefinite duration commencing at 7:00 a.m. this morning, Monday, August 10. This work stoppage will have a direct and significant impact on the activities of many of our member companies, their employees, suppliers, and clients.

The Freight Management Association of Canada (FMA) has been representing the views Canadian industry with regard to freight transportation issues since 1916. Many FMA member companies depend on reliable and consistent service for exports and imports through the Port of Montreal. This work stoppage at the Port of Montreal represents a major risk to the competitiveness and the operations of companies in many industries.

We understand Federal Labour Mediation and Conciliation Service has been supporting the negotiations for some time. The work of the mediators is generally effective and very much appreciated. However, as a strike of indefinite length has now commenced, increased government intervention is needed.

The Port of Montreal serves a market in Canada and the U.S of 110 million people. This shutdown at the port will have a significant impact on the populations of Quebec, Ontario, the Maritime Provinces and portions of the north eastern U.S. Many enterprises depend on the Port of Montreal for their operations and any disruption to their supply chains will severely impact the Canadian economy, our export markets, our importers, and thousands of jobs, as well as the competitiveness of large and small companies in Eastern Canada.

FMA members appreciate the work of your department and would be pleased to meet with you or your officials to discuss the impacts in more detail.



R.H. Ballantyne, P. Eng.
President

Cc. The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
Cc. The Honorable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport
Cc: Mr. Olivier Duchesneau, Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister of Canada

Cc: FMA Membership