

March 8, 2022

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan Jr., P.C., M.P.
Minister of Labour
140 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, QC K1A 0J9

Via e-mail: seamus.oregan@labour-travail.gc.ca

Re: Potential Labour Action at Canadian Pacific

Dear Minister O'Regan,

Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA) is very concerned about the imminent threat of a labour stoppage at Canadian Pacific (CP). Ideally an agreement between CP Management and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference can be made prior to any labour action being taken.

The 43,000 canola growers represented by CCGA rely heavily on exports sales; approximately 90% of the canola crop is exported every year. The vast majority of these sales rely on Canadian rail transportation, either to reach an export port, or to reach an export market itself. Any disruption in rail service will have a detrimental effect on the canola industry's ability to supply the majority of its customers.

A strike may result in canola backing up in elevators and crush plants, adding to Canadian farmers' grain handling costs and affecting their ability to deliver grain and to manage cash flow. A strike will have devastating impacts to the economy as a whole – Canada's canola industry annually contributes \$29.9 billion to the Canadian economy and accounts for 207,000 Canadian jobs.

Equally concerning, particularly in the long run, is that rail work stoppages affect our industry's ability to provide consistent and reliable service to our export customers. Even the threat of a disruption in rail service has the potential to negatively affect our reputation as a reliable supplier and can drive valued customers to look to our global competitors to meet their canola requirements. This has a direct effect on the competitiveness of Canadian farmers.

If required, we urge you to take early action to head off this work stoppage before it affects the profitability of Canadian farmers, the competitiveness of the Canadian canola industry, and the Canadian economy as a whole.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Mike Ammeter
Chair
Canadian Canola Growers Association

CC: The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food
The Honourable Omar Alhabra, P.C., M.P., Minister of Transport

Rick White, President & Chief Executive Officer, CCGA

Dave Carey, Vice-President, Government & Industry Relations, CCGA