



September 26, 2024

saskchamber.com

306.781.3121

200 - 2221 Cornwall St
Regina, SK S4P 2L1

Hon. Steven MacKinnon

House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada
K1A 0A6

Via email

Dear Minister MacKinnon,

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to urge your government to take firm and decisive action to address the serious labour disruption at several Metro Vancouver grain terminals. This strike comes in the midst of harvest season, only a month after an action at CN and CPKC railways halted shipments of grain across the country, and our farmers need the federal government to act now.

Saskatchewan's export economy is deeply linked to the affected terminal in Vancouver, which handled more than half of all Canadian-grown grain last year. Our province is the world's leading exporter of durum, dry peas, canary seed, mustard, oats, and other essential grains, which means that this strike affects us disproportionately in comparison to other jurisdictions. Every day this stoppage persists will mean millions in lost revenue for our farmers after what should be a highly productive growing season.

Saskatchewan plans to increase its crop production to 45 million metric tonnes by 2030, and we have been working tirelessly to secure and diversify international markets for these goods. However, our efforts are continually being undermined by labour actions which jeopardize Canada's reputation as a reliable trading partner. International buyers want to know



saskchamber.com

306.781.3121

200 - 2221 Cornwall St
Regina, SK S4P 2L1

that the products they are buying from Canada will arrive on time to fill their shelves – not be held up in a terminal to degrade.

With the Metro Vancouver terminals closed, our local terminals will quickly begin filling to capacity until they are no longer able to accept grain. When this happens, our farmers will not be paid, and our local economies will come to a halt.

We ask you to take any and all action necessary to ensure that collective bargaining is resolved quickly to avoid both short- and long-term negative impacts on the Canadian economy, agri-food industry, and our reputation as a reliable and stable trading partner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Prabha Ramaswamy".

Prabha Ramaswamy, CEO
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce
Estevan Chamber of Commerce
Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce
Melville & District Chamber of Commerce
Nipawin & District Chamber of Commerce
Prince Albert & District Chamber of Commerce
Regina & District Chamber of Commerce
Swift Current & District Chamber of Commerce
Watson Chamber of Commerce
Weyburn Chamber of Commerce
Yorkton Chamber of Commerce