

August 16, 2024

Dr. Robert Kitchen  
Member of Parliament for Souris-Moose Mountain  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

**Re: Potential Labour Disruption in Class I railways**

Dr. Kitchen:

On behalf of the Weyburn Chamber of Commerce Board, I am writing to urge you and the Conservative Party of Canada to immediately intervene and do everything necessary to avert a disruption in Canada's Class I railways.

A concurrent or sequential work stoppage at both major railways will leave Canadians with access to fewer goods and products, driving up prices and exacerbating affordability challenges. A failure to act swiftly will also put the livelihoods of millions of workers in jeopardy.

Our international reputation and relationship with our trading partners are at stake. Canada's railways transport \$380 billion worth of goods annually – that's over \$1 billion each day – and account for half of the country's exports.

A rail stoppage would significantly impact Weyburn, as these rail lines are vital for the transportation of agricultural products, particularly grain and oilseeds, which are key to the local economy. A halt in rail services could lead to a bottleneck in moving these goods to marketing, potentially causing financial strain for farmers and agribusinesses in the region. Additionally, disruptions could hinder the supply chain of essential goods, including fuel and industrial supplies, affecting both local businesses and residents. In the long term, such disruptions could undermine Weyburn's economic stability and its role as a hub for agricultural trade in southeastern Saskatchewan.

We are respectfully asking that you safeguard the well-being of Canadians and the country's reputation as a reliable trading partner by doing everything you can to ensure that a disruption to our national railway system does not occur.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Chad Bailey  
President  
Weyburn Chamber of Commerce Board

