



November 29, 2024

saskchamber.com

306.781.3121

200 - 2221 Cornwall St
Regina, SK S4P 2L1

Hon. Steven MacKinnon
Minister of Labour and Seniors
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Via email

Dear Minister MacKinnon,

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to raise concerns from our business community on the impact of the ongoing strike by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. This strike has now persisted for nearly two weeks, and mediation talks were suspended on November 27 due to lack of progress.

Canada Post delivers nearly 6.5 billion pieces of mail, parcels, and messages to over 17 million addresses nationwide. As a result, any work stoppage significantly affects millions of Canadians, particularly in rural communities and small businesses that depend solely on Canada Post for their mail services. Saskatchewan is built upon these communities, as more than 58% of our population lives outside of large urban centres. Furthermore, small businesses made up 98.9% of businesses in our province in 2022—the highest proportion of any province. These factors make Saskatchewan especially vulnerable to the impacts of this strike.

Canada's supply chains have seen numerous disruptions this year, eroding our international reputation and making it harder for our industries to operate. As a province that exports around 65% of what we produce, Saskatchewan is heavily reliant on carriers such as Canada Post to keep our economy running. Without reliable mail service, hundreds of local



businesses have had to adapt their operations or even temporarily close, awaiting the resolution of the strike.

We believe that this is unacceptable, and we urge your Ministry to intervene in this strike as it did to resolve the recent disputes in our ports and railways. While we acknowledge your efforts to have all parties resolve this issue at the bargaining table, a different strategy must be employed when negotiations continue to be unproductive. Our businesses and communities cannot afford prolonged disruptions that jeopardize their livelihoods and the essential services they rely on.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Prabha Ramaswamy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Prabha" and last name "Ramaswamy" clearly distinguishable.

Prabha Ramaswamy, CEO
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce
Estevan Chamber of Commerce
Kindersley Chamber of Commerce
Lloydminster Chamber Of Commerce
Maple Creek Chamber of Commerce
Moose Jaw & 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
Weyburn Chamber of Commerce
Yorkton Chamber Of Commerce