

April 12, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
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Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to express our alarm concerning the deteriorating situation in labour relations at the Port of Montreal. With the most recent actions taken by the disputing parties, Canadian shippers are experiencing steadily deteriorating service levels, and a slow strangulation of trade which threatens to strike a serious economic blow to Montreal, to Quebec and to Canadian business generally.

The members of CIFFA are among the people most immediately impacted by this imminent crisis. Already our customers – exporters and importers – are shifting their transport routes to other ports, railways and trucking services. But as we know, the capacity of the Canadian system to manage this shift is limited. As the international shipping community confronts yet another service disruption in Canada it will take steps to divert goods and those diversions will cost Canadian jobs now and possibly for years to come.

Clearly this is not a problem of your government's creation and we recognize the efforts of Labour Canada to facilitate the negotiations. But we urge you to take any steps within the government's capacity to ensure this threatening dispute does not hit our economy at this time, when recovery is quite fragile.

With best wishes,

Bruce Rodgers Executive Director, CIFFA



Julia Kuzeljevich Public Affairs Manager, CIFFA

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The Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA) represents some 260 regular member firms from the largest of global multi-national freight forwarding firms to small and medium sized Canadian companies. CIFFA member companies employ tens of thousands of highly skilled international trade and transportation specialists. As a vital component of Canada's global supply chain, member firms of the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA) facilitate the movement of goods around the world. Freight forwarders provide a vital link in Canada's global supply chains, enhancing export capabilities and assisting in the delivery of competitive solutions to Canada's importing and exporting communities.