



November 5, 2024

saskchamber.com

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Regina, SK S4P 2L1

Honourable Steven MacKinnon
Minister of Labour and Seniors
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable Anita Anand
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Via email

Dear Ministers MacKinnon and Anand,

I am writing on behalf of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce with great concern regarding the recent work stoppage at the Port of Vancouver.

Saskatchewan is heavily reliant on the efficient transportation of goods through our West Coast ports. The Port of Vancouver is a particularly vital trade hub for our region, handling more than 44% of Saskatchewan's yearly exports worth upwards of \$12.2 billion. While provisions have been made to ensure that grain shipments are minimally affected, the same cannot be said for equally vital commodities such as potash fertilizer, of which our province is the world's largest supplier.

When the Port of Vancouver halted operations for 13 days in 2023, our fertilizer industry lost an estimated \$126 million and one of our province's largest mines was forced to reduce production. This resulted in Canada losing a significant share of the global potash market to Russia, who are currently using the associated revenue to fund their war in Ukraine. This ripple effect might have been avoided if a resolution had been found quicker.

We are supportive of the proposal put forward by The Mosaic Company that the federal government pursue long-term solutions aimed at



addressing these labour disruptions, such as an amendment to Section 87.7 of the Canada Labour Code to include protections for the shipping of fertilizer.

I trust that the government will take all necessary actions to address this disruption and ensure that the interests of provinces like Saskatchewan are considered in any ongoing negotiations. We must take every step to safeguard the flow of goods through Vancouver's port and protect Canadian businesses from unnecessary harm.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,

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

Prabha Ramaswamy, CEO
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

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