

September 29, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

Your government has set an ambitious agenda to attract investment, diversify Canada's trade relationships and strengthen long-term economic growth. Achieving those objectives will depend not only on expanding Canada's trade infrastructure, but on ensuring the transportation networks and supply chains that connect Canadian products to domestic and global markets remain reliable and predictable.

As organizations representing major users and operators of Canada's supply chains, we are writing to recommend a targeted amendment to Bill C-39 that would strengthen the federal government's ability to address exceptional labour disputes.

Canada's transportation and supply chain stakeholders welcomed the recent Productivity Mega Deduction announcement. Permanent immediate expensing will help support the long-term investment needed to expand Canada's trade capacity and move Canadian goods to market.

But investment and trade growth also depend on a reliable supply chain, which Canada has not had in several years because of numerous work stoppages as the most significant factor. That is why we believe a targeted change is needed to Bill C-39's proposed amendments to section 107 of the *Canada Labour Code*.

Under the proposed framework, the Minister can only intervene once a strike or lockout has begun. Given the broad and well-documented impacts of acute supply chain work stoppages across multiple sectors of the economy, this requirement does not address the risk of economic harm occurring before a work stoppage begins.

If Parliament entrusts the Minister with the authority to protect the national interest in these exceptional circumstances, the Minister should have the option to act before preventable economic and reputational damage occurs.

We recommend amending section 107 to allow the Minister of Labour to intervene in exceptional circumstances, before a strike or lockout begins when collective bargaining

has failed, the special mediator's report clearly indicates a work stoppage is imminent, and a work stoppage would cause significant economic harm to the national interest.

This approach would recognize the importance of collective bargaining and workers' rights while providing a mechanism to intervene in exceptional circumstances where a work stoppage will have a significant impact on national public interests.

Labour stability and efficient supply chains are essential to realizing the government's ambitions for investment, trade and economic growth. These recommendations are intended to strengthen the framework proposed in Bill C-39. We support the government's efforts to encourage earlier resolution of labour disputes and create a more predictable federal labour-relations system. The legislation already responds to several concerns raised by supply-chain sectors, including through special mediation, longer conciliation and clearer federal intervention authorities. We believe this targeted amendment would strike the right balance between respecting collective bargaining and ensuring Canada has the tools needed to protect its economy, trade relationships and reputation as a reliable trading partner.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these recommendations in further detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Eric Harvey — President and CEO, Railway Association of Canada

Derek Nighbor — President and CEO, Forest Products Association of Canada

Shannon Watt — President & CEO, Canadian Propane Association

John Corey — President, Freight Management Association of Canada

Jocelyn Velestuk — Chair, Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission

Michael Bourque — President and CEO, Fertilizer Canada

Derrick Hynes — President and CEO, FETCO

Debbie Murray — President and CEO, National Maritime Group

Lucas Malinowski — President and CEO, Global Automakers of Canada

Pierre Gratton — President and CEO, Mining Association of Canada

Olivier Lavigne-Lacroix — President, Canadian National Millers Association

Jill Verwey — President, Keystone Agricultural Producers Inc.

Chris Davison — President and CEO, Canola Council of Canada

Wade Sobkowich — Executive Director, Western Grain Elevator Association

Andre Harpe — Chair, Canadian Canola Growers Association

Keith Currie — President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Michael Flynn — Executive Director, Alberta Grains

Greg Cherewyk — President, Pulse Canada

Keith Currie — President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture

CC

Marc-André Blanchard, Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister

Michael Sabia, Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Transport and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, President of the King's Privy Council for Canada and Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs, Internal Trade and One Canadian Economy

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Finance and National Revenue

The Honourable John Zerucelli, Secretary of State (Labour)

The Honourable Tim Hodgson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

The Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food