



FERTILIZER CANADA

FERTILISANTS CANADA

907 – 350 Sparks, Ottawa ON K1R 7S8

T (613) 230-2600 | F (613) 230-5142

[info@fertilizercanada.ca](mailto:info@fertilizercanada.ca)

[fertilizercanada.ca](http://fertilizercanada.ca) | [fertilisantscanada.ca](http://fertilisantscanada.ca)

July 7, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A3  
Sent by email: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

Re: ILWU-BCMEA Labour Strike – West Coast Ports

Dear Prime Minister,

Fertilizer Canada is very concerned with the ongoing strike action between the International Longshore Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA), impacting over 7,000 longshore workers at West Coast Ports. Fertilizer Canada has significant concerns about the negative impact on potash exports and how that jeopardizes global food security. As the impacts of this strike are being felt across Canada and internationally, we are calling on the Government of Canada to end the work stoppage using all means available including, if necessary, to reconvene parliament to pass back-to-work legislation.

Canada's fertilizer industry contributes approximately \$24 billion annually to Canada's economic activity, supporting the employment of over 76,000 individuals throughout the supply chain. Potash is second only to gold in export value, contributing about \$5.52 billion to Canada's GDP annually. Fertilizer is responsible for half of global food production and Canada is a major contributor to the global supply of fertilizer products accounting for approximately 12 per cent of all fertilizers produced around the world. Ninety-five per cent of the potash we produce is exported to global markets with the majority flowing through the port of Vancouver. Over 75 countries rely on Canadian fertilizer exports.

Geopolitical events, like the war in Ukraine, have put pressure on global potash supply, and dependable supply chains are essential to Canada's position as a reliable and stable trading partner. Timely access to fertilizer products is essential in supporting Canadian and global food security. This is particularly true for southern hemisphere countries who need access to Canadian fertilizers now as they are preparing for seeding in the coming months.

In recent years strikes (such as the 2021 strike by the Port of Montreal's longshoremen union), blockades, and embargos have caused significant disruption to Canadian and global supply chains. It is vital the labour negotiations are resolved as soon as possible to prevent weeks of disruptions to trade coming in and out of Canada's west coast.

Our industry is increasingly concerned about the challenges associated with this disruption to supply chains that unfortunately is a reoccurring event. In the long-term, our industry strongly encourages the federal government to implement the National Supply Chain Task



**FERTILIZER CANADA**

**FERTILISANTS CANADA**

907 – 350 Sparks, Ottawa ON K1R 7S8

T (613) 230-2600 | F (613) 230-5142

[info@fertilizercanada.ca](mailto:info@fertilizercanada.ca)

[fertilizercanada.ca](http://fertilizercanada.ca) | [fertilisantscanada.ca](http://fertilisantscanada.ca)

Force recommendations, including the recommendation that the Minister of Labour should urgently convene a council of experts to develop a new collaborative labour relations paradigm that would reduce the likelihood of strikes, threat of strikes, or lockouts that risk the operation or fluidity of the national transportation supply chain.

In the immediate term, the federal government must use all the tools at its disposal and work with other federal parties to end this strike as soon as possible to protect Canada's significant contributions to global food security as well as our reputation on the world stage as a reliable trading partner.

Thank you very much for your attention and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Karen Proud  
President & CEO  
Fertilizer Canada

CC:

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan, P.C., MP., Minister of Labour

The Honourable Mary Ng, P.C., M.P., Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development

The Honourable Omar Alghabra, P.C., M.P., Minister of Transport

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P., Minister of Natural Resources

The Honourable Anthony Rota, MP., Speaker of the House of Commons

The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, MP., Leader of the Opposition



**FERTILIZER CANADA**

**FERTILISANTS CANADA**

907 – 350 Sparks, Ottawa ON K1R 7S8

T (613) 230-2600 | F (613) 230-5142

[info@fertilizercanada.ca](mailto:info@fertilizercanada.ca)

[fertilizercanada.ca](http://fertilizercanada.ca) | [fertilisantscanada.ca](http://fertilisantscanada.ca)

Jagmeet Singh, MP., Leader of the NDP

Yves-Francois Blanchet, MP., Leader of the Bloc Quebecois