

February 18, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Prime Minister's Office
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A3

RE: Infrastructure Blockades Damaging Canadian Economy

Dear Prime Minister:

As you are aware, the ongoing rail and other infrastructure blockades taking place in various parts of the country are creating severe problems for public services, Canadian businesses, workers and their families.

We fully share your government's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Numerous Canadian businesses have long-standing, respectful relationships with Indigenous communities. The Canadian business community supports the economic and social imperative of ensuring Indigenous peoples have the same tools to benefit from economic activity as everyone else. We are anxious to partner with governments to build relationships based on the recognition of Indigenous rights, respect, cooperation and partnership.

Our member companies collectively employ millions of Canadians from every region and every industrial sector of the economy. We call on your government to work urgently with the provinces and territories, Indigenous leaders and law enforcement authorities to bring an end to the ongoing disruptions and restore normal services without further delay.

In addition to denying access to public transportation for tens of thousands of Canadians, these illegal blockades inflict serious damage on the economy, leaving countless middle-class jobs at risk, many of them in industries that must get their goods, parts, and ingredients to and from market by rail. In addition to disrupting domestic and global supply chains, the blockades undermine Canada's reputation as a dependable partner in international trade. They also threaten public safety by preventing the distribution of essential products like chlorine for water treatment and propane for heating homes, seniors facilities and farms.

The damage inflicted on the Canadian economy and on the welfare of all our citizens mounts with each hour that these illegal disruptions are allowed to continue. Each additional day rail lines are disrupted requires three to four days for supply chains to recover. This is why it is imperative that the Government act now to get the Canadian economy moving again.

Sincerely,

Ken Kobly
President & Chief Executive Officer
Alberta Chambers of Commerce

Jean Simard
President & Chief Executive Officer
Aluminum Association of Canada

Wendy Zatylny
President
Association of Canadian Port Authorities

Sheri Somerville
Chief Executive Officer
Atlantic Chamber of Commerce

Mike Leonard
President & Chief Executive Officer
British Columbia Maritime Employers
Association

Goldy Hyder
President & Chief Executive Officer
Business Council of Canada

Tim McMillan
President & Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Association of Petroleum
Producers

Tim Reuss
President & Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Automobile Dealers Association

Hon. Perrin Beatty, P.C., O.C.
President & Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Dan Kelly
President & Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Federation of Independent
Business

Peter Boag
President & Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Fuels Association

Dennis A. Darby, P.Eng., ICD.D
President & Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters

Ron Lemaire
President
Canadian Produce Marketing Association

Nathalie St-Pierre
President & Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Propane Association

Bruce R. Burrows
President & Chief Executive Officer
Chamber of Marine Commerce

Robert-Lewis Manning
President
Chamber of Shipping

Bob Masterson
President & Chief Executive Officer
Chemistry Industry Association of Canada

Pierre Petelle
President & Chief Executive Officer
CropLife Canada

Charles Milliard
President & Chief Executive Officer
Fédération des chambres de commerce
du Québec

Garth Whyte
President & Chief Executive Officer
Fertilizer Canada

Denise Allen
President & Chief Executive Officer
Food Processors of Canada

Michael Graydon
Chief Executive Officer
Food & Consumer Products of Canada

Derek Nighbor
President & Chief Executive Officer
Forest Products Association of Canada

Robert H. Ballantyne, P. Eng.
President
Freight Management Association of
Canada

Richard Moore
President & Chief Executive Officer
Halifax Employers Association

Chuck Davidson
President & Chief Executive Officer
Manitoba Chambers of Commerce

Martin Tessier
President & Chief Executive Officer
Maritime Employers Association

Pierre Gratton
President & Chief Executive Officer
The Mining Association of Canada

Rocco Rossi
President & Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Marc Brazeau
President & Chief Executive Officer
Railway Association of Canada

Cathy Campbell
President
Responsible Distribution Canada

Diane J. Brisebois
President & Chief Executive Officer
Retail Council of Canada

Michael H. Broad
President
Shipping Federation of Canada

Christian Buhagiar
President & Chief Executive Officer
Supply Chain Canada

Cc:

Hon. Andrew Scheer, P.C., M.P.
Leader of the Official Opposition

M. Yves-François Blanchet, M.P.
Leader of the Bloc Québécois

Mr. Jagmeet Singh, M.P.
Leader of the New Democratic Party of
Canada

Mrs. Jo-Ann Roberts
Interim Leader
Green Party of Canada