



July 4, 2023

Honourable Seamus O'Regan
Minister of Labour
Government of Canada
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0A6

Dear Minister O'Regan,

We commend you for your continued work in serving as the Canadian Member of the Parliament for St. John's South—Mount Pearl and as the Minister of Labour. We commend you for your willingness to serve the public during these challenging times.

We write to you on an urgent matter. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) was forced to go on strike Saturday after negotiations with the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) failed. During the pandemic the longshore workers were heroes. While most Canadians sheltered in place, these workers went to work daily in spite of the health risks. They stood up for Canada when we all needed them, and now it is time for Canada to stand up for them.

We are calling on you Minister O'Regan as the Minister of Labour for Canada and for the federal government to stay out of the negotiations process with the BCMEA. The government cannot one day say that they stand with workers and then the next day force a collective agreement on these workers—workers that stood up for Canada.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms is clear and guarantees workers the rights to free association and to fair and free collective bargaining. Canadians were shocked last fall when Premier Doug Ford tried to use the notwithstanding clause to deny workers' rights under the Charter. Canadians' reactions were clear: governments in Canada need to stay out of the collective bargaining process.

Any interference will mean that government is taking sides and that is in stark opposition to Canadian's belief in fair collective bargaining and the importance of adhering to Canadians' charter rights.

We ask that you honour the heroes who work on Canada's ports.

Sincerely,

Lori Mayhew
President, MoveUP
LM:kc

cc:
Hon. Joyce Murray MP for Vancouver Quadra
Hon. Carla Qualtrough MP for Delta

Who are we

MoveUP represents more than 12,000 workers at public and private sector companies in Western Canada, including thousands of members at BC Transit and TransLink. We are a diverse and socially responsible union with a long and proud tradition of representing workers dating back to the 1930s. We began as the union for BC Electric, the predecessor of BC Hydro. We now represent members in many of the industries and professions fundamental to our economy including at BC Hydro, FortisBC, ICBC, Capilano University, BCAA, Coast Mountain Bus, TransLink, as well as many credit unions and car rental companies.

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Hon. Harjit Sajjan MP for Vancouver South
Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson MP for North Vancouver
Mr. John Aldag MP for Cloverdale–Langley City
Mr. Parm Bains MP for Steveston-Richmond East
Mr. Terry Beech, MP for Burnaby North-Seymour
Mr. Sukh Dhaliwal MP for Surrey-Newton
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Mr. Ken Hardie MP for Fleetwood-Port Kells
Mr. Ron McKinnon, MP for Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam
Mr. Wilson Miao MP for Richmond Centre
Mr. Taleeb Noormohamed MP for Vancouver Granville
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Mr. Patrick Weiler MP for West Vancouver–Sunshine Coast–Sea to Sky Country

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