

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  
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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