



April 17, 2023

Madame Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of Agriculture
1341 Baseline Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5

Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca

OPEN LETTER

Dear Minister Bibeau,

The Wheat Growers association is calling upon yourself and the government of Canada to ensure you have a contingency plan in place should the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) employees within the PSAC union move to a formal strike and work stoppage. A strike causing the slowing or stoppage of grain movement from Canadian ports will have a devastating impact on the entire grain industry, especially farmers. Farmers need to continue to deliver last years crop before spring seeding to operate their businesses and purchase inputs for 2023 crop.

Exporters need to fulfill contracts by loading vessels currently in port, to not incur late penalties and vessel or rail demurrage charges. Any disruption to the supply chain will also cause a backlog of vessels that are currently enroute to Canadian ports, adding additional penalties to the industry which will be incurred even after a strike is settled.


As Agriculture Minister, you are also aware of the reputational impact to Canada as a reliable supplier when grain deliveries to customers are delayed. This is a cost that can't be measured when sales are lost to competitors, but the impact to farmers, industry, and the country is devastating. In a world of "just in time" deliveries, reliability from suppliers has never been more important.

We are calling on you and your government to be ready to grant immediate exemptions for third party service providers to ensure inspections continue and vessels are loaded and released to the customer. Based on customer demands, approximately 70% of Canadian grain is currently inspected by both CGC and third parties, calling into question the double inspection costs to farmers and the need for the CGC services other than moving to a regulatory oversight model like the United States. While we recognize that would require a legislative change, until then, should CGC employee's

strike, we expect government to ensure that CGC staff not in the PSAC union be available to pick up bag and tag samples provided by a third party for CGC grading, thereby ensuring vessel loading and movement impacts are minimized in the event of a strike.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Jochum", written in a cursive style.

Gunter Jochum