



August 20, 2024

Hon. Lawrence MacAuley
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Email: lawrence.macaulay@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister MacAuley,

RE: National Rail Strike

The Wheat Growers have been actively communicating with the past two Ministers of Labour in an effort to avoid the worst possible development of both national railways simultaneously out on strike. Sadly, we are less than 48 hours from this scenario becoming reality.

It appears that as our Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, you have been completely silent on this crucial file. We have searched many of the social media sites for you personally as well as AAFC and have found not found any reference to the pending disaster that this strike will have on grain farmers across Canada.

One can only assume that you have also been silent at the Cabinet Table, even though your Department website calls for your proactive work on behalf of the agriculture industry across Canada.

Your website further states that,

“The success of the Canadian agriculture sector depends heavily on our ability to export to other countries and Canada is one of the world's largest food exporters. In 2023, Canada exported nearly \$99.1 billion in agriculture and food products.

The United States is Canada's top trading partner, accounting for about 60% of all our agri-food exports and more than half our imports. China has been Canada's second leading agri-food and seafood export market since 2012 – our exports have increased by 112% since then.

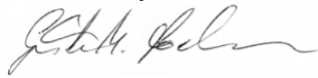
Sadly, your silence on each of these points regarding the pending rail strike, indicates your lack of sway at the Cabinet Table.

As your office well knows, every day of shutdown will require weeks to catch-up the backhauls. This is unacceptable at a time when the Canadian harvest is underway. Insufficient room at the local elevators and terminals is a disaster for farmers, amounts to a loss of income and grain companies are unable to deliver to our export markets. The cost to farmers, private companies and the Canadian economy is enormous.

We therefore implore you to act responsibly on behalf of Canada grain farmers and press the Minister of Labour to not allow this devastating strike to move forward. Time is truly of the essence.

We await your prompt action and response on this matter.

Yours truly,

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

Gunter Jochum
President