



July 20, 2010

The Honourable Lisa Raitt
Minister of Labour
307 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

By e-mail to: RaittL@parl.gc.ca

Subject: Port of Montreal Closure

Dear Madam Raitt:

The Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA) represents some 241 Regular Member firms from the largest of global multi-national freight forwarding firms to small and medium sized Canadian companies. CIFFA member companies employ tens of thousands of highly skilled international trade and transportation specialists. As a vital component of Canada's global supply chain, CIFFA member companies facilitate the movement of goods around the world.

I am writing to you today to express our grave concerns with the impacts to Canada's international trade and economy of the sudden and unexpected work stoppage at the Port of Montreal and to urge the Government of Canada to act. Canadian exporters and importers rely on the stability and continuity of service to move the goods so critical to our international trade. The work stoppage at the Port of Montreal and subsequent cascading of problems has already negatively impacted the ability of Canada's international traders to compete in the global marketplace. If the Port of Montreal remains closed to container traffic much longer, the consequences will be significant.

In the short-term, perishable food may not reach grocers' shelves, antibiotics may not reach ill patients and manufacturing lines may shut down for lack of parts. Many importers and exporters may not be able to survive the delay in goods arrival, the missed delivery deadlines or the late order penalties. Many freight forwarding companies, trucking, port and rail organizations may need to reduce employee headcount as freight grinds to a halt and vessels remain at anchor unable to load or discharge their cargos. In the long-term, Canada cannot afford to have such uncertainty in our global supply chains. If steamship lines cannot be assured of service at the Port of Montreal, they may remove Montreal from their port rotation. If the lines don't call here, the Port of Montreal,

businesses in the Province of Quebec and the entire logistics infrastructure will suffer job losses. Canada must have a stable and secure marine cargo supply chain.

We urge the Government of Canada to take action to ensure that the Port of Montreal is able to return to work immediately.

Sincerely,

Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA)



H. Ruth Snowden
Executive Director

Copy:

The Honourable John Baird, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities:
mintc@tc.gc.ca

Mr. Marc Bibeau, President CIFFA: marc.bibeau@oecgroup.ca

Mr. Michael Broad, Shipping Federation: mhbroad@shipfed.ca

Mr. Antonio Boemi, Port of Montreal: boemit@port-montreal.com

CIFFA National Board of Directors