



August 22, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Peter Julian, M.P.
Member of Parliament for New Westminster-Burnaby
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Member of Parliament Julian,

On behalf of the New Westminster Chamber of Commerce and the business community we represent, we are writing to express our deep concern regarding the disruption to Canada's Class I railways and to urgently request immediate government intervention to resolve this crisis.

The ripple effects of a rail disruption will be felt by thousands of businesses from coast to coast, including right here in New Westminster. Canada's ports, logistics and warehouse operators, and suppliers would all be affected, and a prolonged stoppage could lead to shortages of critical supplies in various industries. This will force businesses to suspend operations, furlough employees, and create uncertainty for thousands of New Westminster workers.

Beyond our national economy, Canada's reputation on the global stage is at risk. Our railways transport \$380 billion worth of goods annually, representing over \$1 billion per day and accounting for half of Canada's exports. Any interruption in service could severely undermine our relationships with trading partners.

The uncertainty of a potential nationwide rail strike has already prompted businesses in New West to alter their operations, resulting in lost productivity and increased costs.

We respectfully urge you to take all necessary steps to safeguard the well-being of Canadians and Canada's standing as a reliable trading partner by ensuring that our national railway system remains operational.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this critical issue and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rich Patterson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rich Patterson, Board Chair, New Westminster Chamber of Commerce