



For Immediate Release

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Wheat Growers Call on Federal Government to End CN Rail Strike

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association has sent a letter today to federal Labour Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn calling on the government to bring about an end to the CN rail strike either through back-to-work legislation or by any other means.

“The strike is imposing significant costs on farmers and businesses that rely on the railways,” says Cherilyn Jolly-Nagel, President of the Wheat Growers. “Any further delays will only compound the problem.”

The congestion at the Port of Vancouver has resulted in vessel demurrage costs and higher storage and interest costs, most of which will be borne by farmers. Grain companies are also reporting lost sale opportunities.

“It is unacceptable that the economic well-being of farmers and hundreds of businesses can be put at risk by work stoppages at one of the two main railways,” says Jolly-Nagel. “This is an essential service, and should be viewed as such, especially when farmers have no other means to get grain to offshore markets.”

The Wheat Growers are calling on the federal government to end the strike and then to impose an arbitrated settlement if the parties cannot reach a negotiated settlement within a reasonable time frame.

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For further comment, please contact:

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