

September 25, 2023.

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan  
Minister of Labour  
[seamus.oregan@parl.gc.ca](mailto:seamus.oregan@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the members of CIFFA, the [Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association](#), we are writing to inquire about your intention, as stated on August 9, *"to initiate a process under Section 106 of the Canada Labour Code to examine the structural issues underlying the recent dispute between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the BCMEA in the western ports as well as similar disputes that have occurred at our ports across Canada."*

Our interest is not merely academic, as negotiations are now underway at the Port of Montreal and the Canadian economy has a huge interest in their successful completion.

We have been informed that after only one day of meeting, the union have filed a Notice of Dispute. This is eerily similar to what occurred at our West Coast ports-little negotiation and more confrontation.

Appreciating your support of the collective bargaining process, the best deals are made when there is a willingness and desire by both sides at the bargaining table. When this is not present, a strong government presence is required to ensure that a collective agreement is reached with little disruption to the Canadian economy, one way or another.

On July 29, you stated that *"Canada is a reliable trading partner to the world. That is a good thing for every worker and employer in this country. But our credibility depends on the stable operation of our supply chains. We must do everything we can to preserve that stability."*

We require you and your department to do everything possible to ensure the continued reliability of port services in Montreal.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rodgers                      Executive Director, CIFFA

Julia Kuzeljevich                Director, Policy and Regulatory Affairs, CIFFA

**CC:**

The Hon. Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Transport [Pablo.Rodriguez@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Pablo.Rodriguez@parl.gc.ca)