

Ottawa, November 20, 2024

Sent via email (original version sent in French)

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Labour and Seniors
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Subject: CFIB is urging you to end the strike at Canada Post

Dear Minister MacKinnon:

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) represents 97,000 small and medium-sized business owners. We have members in all sectors of the economy and in all regions of the country.

We are writing to you today to ask you to intervene and put an end to the strikes at Canada Post.

SMEs and their employees cannot afford the costs of another work stoppage. Last year, a 13-day strike at BC ports had a significant impact on businesses. There was a strike at the St. Lawrence Seaway shortly thereafter, and a work stoppage at CN and CPKC railways a few months ago. On top of that, just recently, three major ports (Vancouver, Montréal, and Prince Rupert) were paralyzed before you intervened.

Canada Post provides a crucial service for many Canadian SMEs. Our most recent survey on this issue reveals that 78% of SMEs were planning on using Canada Post for their activities and 72% of them have declared that they were being negatively affected by the strike due to cash flow issues stemming from delays in receiving or sending out cheques and invoices as other delivery options are more costly.¹

Many sectors are negatively affected by the strike at Canada Post. About 22,600 of our members are in the retail sector. The holiday season is crucial for these small businesses.

Rural and remote areas are also particularly affected by the strike. In these regions, Canada Post is very often the only available option for firms to deliver packages to their clients.

Further, Canada Post is currently in a precarious financial situation. A strike of any length could cause them to continue to lose customers, which will worsen their situation and that of its employees. The strike needs to end, and Canada Post must be given the flexibility to try and fix their financial situation.

¹ CFIB, *Flash Survey: Impact of Work Stoppages*, November 2024. Preliminary results.

SMEs cannot bear the costs of work stoppages in federally regulated sectors each time negotiations between a union and an employer are at an impasse.

We therefore urge you to intervene, just as you have already done twice this year, by imposing either binding arbitration or back-to-work legislation.

Small business owners would like to see you act with conviction for the overall good of the country.

Whether you impose binding arbitration or back-to-work legislation, you can count on CFIB's support.

We remain available to answer any questions you may have on this issue in person.

Sincerely,



Corinne Pohlmann
Executive Vice-President,
Advocacy



Jasmin Guénette
Vice-President,
National Affairs