February 19, 2021

The Honourable Filomena Tassi

Minister of Labour

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**Subject: Strike threat at the Port of Montreal: a true risk for businesses**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The longshoremen strike at the Port of Montreal in the summer of 2020 showed the impact of a work stoppage are significant for businesses and their employees. The prospect of a new work stoppage is already being felt and is contributing to the uncertain environment in which we must operate , for almost a year now.

One month before the end of the truce between the *Syndicat des débardeurs SCFP section locale 375* and the Maritime Employers Association, and after being made aware [earlier this week / last week] that the negotiation process was suspended until further notice, we are very concerned by the absence of progress and unpredictability generated by this critical situation.

The current pandemic already causes important economic and logistic impacts for the activities of [NAME OF THE COMPANY]. This is particularly worrying given businesses and stores have just gotten the authorization to reopen.

Many Quebec and Ontario businesses using the Port of Montreal, some of which transport critical goods dedicated to the fight against COVID-19, are already redirecting containerized goods to other ports. Others are planning to do so if a new work stoppage should happen soon. Such a scenario would represent important additional costs and delays for [NAME OF THE COMPANY] and would significantly affect the entire Canadian economy. Indeed, Canadian consumers will suffer the consequences, with potentially higher purchase prices and uncertain supply, in the midst of the health crisis related to COVID-19.

Port activities are essential to the proper functioning of the economy and for the supply, among other things, of food products and other essential goods, as well as for the good functioning of activities of [NAME OF THE COMPANY]. Considering the threat of an interruption could have on the Quebec and Canadian economies, [NAME OF THE COMPANY] is calling the Government of Canada to to make every effort to achieve a lasting and satisfactory settlement for all and ensure that ensure that no work stoppage occurs.

Best regards,

Signature

Cc. The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Cc. The Honorable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport

Cc. Mr. Olivier Duchesneau, Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister of Canada

Cc. Ms Marie-Laurence Lapointe, Senior Advisor to the Quebec Lieutenant