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December 14, 2024

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Labour and Seniors
Place du Portage Phase II
165 de l'Hôtel-de-Ville Street
Gatineau, Quebec J8X 3X2
Via electronic mail: Steven.MacKinnon@parl.gc.ca

Re: Strike at Canada Post

Dear Minister MacKinnon:

On behalf of the Southeast Alberta Chamber of Commerce, we are writing to urge you to immediately intervene and do everything necessary to end the strike that has now shut down operations at Canada Post for more than four weeks.

Last year, Canada Post delivered almost six and a half billion pieces of mail, parcels, and messages to more than 17 million addresses across the country. As a result, this work stoppage impacts millions of Canadians and businesses that rely on the postal service every day.

This is yet another blow to our supply chains and businesses, with a disproportionate impact on entrepreneurs and small businesses engaged in e-commerce, many of whom are counting on doing a considerable amount of business during the holiday season.

Families and businesses in Southeast Alberta have faced increases to the cost of living that has only been exacerbated by the numerous supply chain disruptions across Canada in recent years due to wildfires, floods, blockades, and the COVID-19 pandemic. There were strikes last year across the ports in British Columbia and the St. Lawrence Seaway, and as you know all too well, labour disputes over the past few months that paralyzed Canada's rail network and shut down our largest East and West Coast ports, all of which play a crucial role in land-locked areas such as ours. Added to the lack of predictability resulting from disputes with Canada's border agents, as well as Air Canada's cargo network, there has simply been no predictable movement of goods or stability in prices, impacting rural areas such as our region more significantly than those in urban centres.

We respectfully ask that you put the families and businesses in our community first by intervening to resolve this dispute. We cannot continue to pay the price of inaction. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Steven Pudwell
2024-2025 President of the Board of Directors
Southeast Alberta Chamber of Commerce



Lisa Dressler
Executive Director
Southeast Alberta Chamber of Commerce

Cc: MP Glen Motz, Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner Constituency
Cc: MP Martin Shields, Bow River Constituency