

February 18, 2020

The Honourable Marc Garneau  
Minister of Transport  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Garneau,

**RE: Infrastructure Blockades**

On behalf of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, representing approximately 1,500 members in our community, I am writing to you regarding the blockades occurring across Canada, to ask you to work with the provinces and law enforcement agencies to bring an end to the ongoing disruptions of public services and particularly to restore all rail services immediately.

The Chamber is the voice of business in Saskatoon. We are a grassroots organization that works to promote prosperity in business, which in turn provides the foundation for a healthy and strong community. Our mandate is to make Saskatoon the best business climate in Canada, to grow the economy and attract investment.

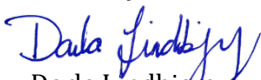
In addition to preventing access to public transportation for tens of thousands of individual Canadians, these disruptions severely limit the movement of perishable foods and other consumer items, grain, construction materials and propane for Quebec and Atlantic Canada. We are deeply concerned about the damage to the Canadian economy, the unfair denial of access to transportation services for Canadian citizens, and the undermining of the rule of law.

These illegal blockades, which also affect the movement of natural resources like timber, aluminum, coal and oil, will take an increasing toll if the government does not act decisively to restore order. Factories and mines may soon face difficult decisions about their ability to continue operations, and the damage to Canadian supply chains will extend beyond our borders and harm our reputation as a stable partner in international trade.

Saskatchewan is heavily reliant on trade, and as such, is particularly affected by these infrastructure blockades. With over 66% of the goods produced within the province being shipped outside of the country, transportation obstacles are detrimental to Saskatchewan's export - based economy.

A rail disruption of this magnitude constitutes an emergency for the Canadian economy. On behalf of our membership, we urge the government to act without further delay.

Sincerely,



Darla Lindbjerg  
President & CEO

Cc: The Honourable Scott Moe  
Cc: The Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce Membership