

May 21, 2024

Att. Ginette Brazeau, Chairperson  
Canadian Industrial Relations Board  
C.D. Howe Building  
240 Sparks Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor West  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0X8

Via email: [CIRB-Filing-CCRI-Depot@tribunal.gc.ca](mailto:CIRB-Filing-CCRI-Depot@tribunal.gc.ca)

**RE: Board file no. 037673-C; 037674-C (Maintenance of activities at CN/CPKC)**

Dear Ms. Brazeau,

On behalf of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC), we are writing to express our concern over a potential labour disruption that would affect Class I railways.

Our 60,000 members represent a wide array of business and economic interests across Ontario. They rely on a fluid and efficient supply chain to get essential goods to market, and to receive critical supplies and resources that Canadians need on a day-to-day basis.

We can not afford to put further strain on a system that is already under pressure, as the capacity to replace the movement of goods by rail by other modes of transportation simply does not exist. A simultaneous work stoppage by both CN and CPKC railways would severely impact businesses across the province at a time when the fluidity and efficiency of our supply chains are required to ensure continued recovery and economic growth.

The OCC respects the right to collective bargaining; however, these repeated work stoppages are not only damaging the economy, but they are also damaging confidence in Ontario's reliability as a trading partner, jeopardizing predictability for businesses, and escalating uncertainty for Canadian families already dealing with an increased cost of living.

Sincerely,



**Daniel Tisch Echevarría, APR, FCPRS, ICD.D**

*President & CEO*

Ontario Chamber of Commerce