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May 21, 2024

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

Dear Ms. Brazeau,

Re: Board file no. 037673-C

A referral concerning Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railway Company (CPKC) and two bargaining units represented by the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) and

Board file no. 037674-C

A referral concerning the Canadian National Railway Company (CN) and TCRC

On behalf of the Surrey Board of Trade, I am writing to address a matter of significant importance to our members and the broader Canadian economy. We seek clarity on whether Canadian National Railway (CN) must continue to provide services for certain critical commodities during a potential labour disruption. This issue is vital for maintaining business operations, supporting economic growth, and preserving our international reputation.

Surrey, a rapidly growing hub of commerce and industry, relies heavily on efficient and reliable rail services. Many businesses in our region depend on CN to transport essential commodities such as grain, petroleum, and chemicals, which are crucial for their daily operations. Any interruption in these services would have a profound impact on local businesses, leading to severe economic consequences and potential job losses.

Ensuring that railway operations continue, even at a minimum level, during strikes is essential to maintain the supply chain for critical products. A disruption in the rail services for these commodities would not only affect the immediate business community but also have a cascading effect on the national economy. The interruption could hinder the timely delivery of goods, increase costs, and damage our standing in global markets.

Furthermore, the stability of our supply chain is paramount in attracting and retaining international investments. Companies considering investment in Canada evaluate our ability to provide uninterrupted logistics and transportation services. Any perceived instability, such as a prolonged disruption in rail services, could deter potential investors and tarnish our reputation as a reliable trade partner.

Our goal is to prevent a strike, protect the supply chain, and preserve Canada's reputation on world markets. We believe that proactive measures and clear policies regarding the continuity of essential rail



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services during labour disruptions are critical. By ensuring that CN continues to operate, even at a reduced capacity, we can safeguard our economic interests and demonstrate our commitment to stability and reliability.

In conclusion, the Surrey Board of Trade urges the government to mandate the continuation of CN's services for critical commodities during any labour disputes. This action is necessary to protect our economy, support businesses, and maintain our competitive edge on the global stage.

For more information, please contact me at 604-634-0342 or e-mail: anita@businessinsurrey.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Huberman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

H. Captain (Navy) Anita Huberman
President & CEO, Surrey Board of Trade