



February 19, 2020

The Honourable Karina Gould
Minister of International Development
Burlington Centre
777 Guelph Line, Suite 209
Burlington, ON L7R 3N2

Dear Minister Gould,

We, the Burlington Chamber of Commerce, representing over 900 employers in your community, are 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.

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.

A rail disruption of this magnitude constitutes an emergency for the Canadian economy. On behalf of the 900+ businesses represented by the Burlington Chamber of Commerce we urge the government to act without further delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Nell', is positioned above the typed name.

Carla Y. Nell, HBA, MA, AIMA, PLE
President & CEO

Bringing life to business

414 Locust Street, Burlington ON L7S 1T7

