



Canadian
Propane
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canadienne
du propane

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November 25, 2019

The Honourable Scott Moe
Premier of Saskatchewan
226 Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

Dear Premier Moe,

On behalf of the Canadian Propane Association (CPA), I am writing to you in your role as Chair of the upcoming meeting of the Council of the Federation to request the support of provincial and territorial governments in petitioning for an immediate resolution to the CN Rail strike.

The CPA respects the fact that the current work stoppage is a legitimate aspect of the business of rail transportation in Canada. We respect the roles and obligations of both CN and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) to their respective stakeholders.

However, as winter settles in, a dangerous consequence of the labour impasse is the increasing risk for the hundreds of thousands of Canadians who depend on propane for home heating, agriculture, hospitals, seniors' homes, mining, transportation and many other sectors in Canada.

I want to make it clear that the supply of propane in Canada is not the issue. Canadians have a great deal of confidence in propane as a safe, affordable, abundant and essential energy source. What is urgently needed is for CN, the TCRC and the federal government to redouble their efforts to reach a settlement so that propane can begin to move again in sustainable quantities throughout Canada.

The CPA has been in contact with CN Rail, the federal government – primarily through the Minister of Transportation and provincial governments such as yours, as well as many other stakeholders to communicate our concern regarding the increasing risk to the Canadians we serve who depend on the timely delivery of propane.

To lessen the pain, CPA members have been very proactive in prioritizing the very limited amount of propane that is available for those Canadians that are at highest risk. Unfortunately, the longer the impasse lasts, the more challenging this becomes. In fact, for every day lost to the strike, a multitude of days and perhaps weeks will be needed to replenish propane back to normal levels.

While federal back to work legislation is a potential remedy, it is clear that with Parliament not sitting before December 5, the time it would take to legislate the resumption of the transportation of propane via rail would take us past a critical point, given the challenges of intensified winter weather conditions over that time.

It is critical that a clear message is sent to all the parties at the negotiating table that essential commodities like propane have to move again and that an immediate resolution to the labour impasse is the best way to ensure that Canadians are spared any further suffering.

The CPA requests that the CN Rail issue is placed on the formal agenda of the Council of the Federation meeting and that the premiers express their concern and support for an immediate settlement of the CN Rail strike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Kelly', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Kelly, CPA CGA.
Chief Financial Officer, Dowler-Karn Limited
Chair of the Board, Canadian Propane Association