

October 1, 2021.

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau

Prime Minister of Canada

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Dear Prime Minister,

Congratulations on your election victory. We look forward to working with your government during this critical period of economic recovery.

As you know very well, Canada's transportation supply chains have been severely disrupted by Covid-19 and the current situation is extremely problematic. The membership of the [Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association](#) deals daily with a system choking on itself, with ports and terminals unable to manage normal freight flows, importers and exporters confronting huge increases in costs and consumers experiencing long delays and increased prices.

As freight forwarders deal each day with all modes of transportation across the entire country, we can document each of these problems: from volatility and lack of capacity, restrictions due to COVID-19 outbreaks, quarantine and staff shortages, production cuts in manufacturing centres, and an increase in import demand on the e-commerce side. From past experience, these will be well known to your government.

The most dismaying aspect of this situation is that there is no one cause, nor any group especially responsible. The supply chain is a highly complex, integrated, international network.

But just because no one participant is at fault that doesn't mean there is nothing we can do. Your government and your provincial counterparts have spent much of the last 18 months dealing with unprecedented situations and crafting emergency procedures to deal with them. We ask you to regard the supply chain mess as one of these and to act immediately to find solutions that alleviate the situation.

Specifically, we suggest that you name a special representative to conduct an urgent assessment of the factors causing the problems and to convene supply chain participants, namely shippers, marine, rail, air, and truck carriers, freight forwarders, freight brokers, customs brokers and other significant intermediaries in an immediate discussion of temporary measures which could be taken by industry and government to relieve pressure on the system. These measures might include expedited government processes, and might also be voluntary measures taken by industry groups. Although no one is suggesting the federal government is exclusively responsible, its leadership might provide invaluable focus to the effort.

We would suggest a very short timeline for this effort. The representative you name would report back to you and your new Cabinet within a matter of weeks and should there be suggestions requiring

governmental orders, procedure changes, etc., could advise accordingly. Meanwhile the exercise could provide a catalyst for system participants to offer measures to un-jam the network.

Our association and its membership strongly support policy favouring a swift economic recovery through growth opportunities. Canada is a trading nation. It must not be dependent solely on few sources of bilateral trade opportunities. It must prioritize gateway strategies promoting trade via strong, safe infrastructure.

We thank you for your due consideration of these asks.

With best wishes,

Bruce Rodgers                      Executive Director, CIFFA



Julia Kuzeljevich Public Affairs Manager, CIFFA



*The Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA) represents some 260 regular member firms from the largest of global multi-national freight forwarding firms to small and medium sized Canadian companies. CIFFA member companies employ tens of thousands of highly skilled international trade and transportation specialists. As a vital component of Canada's global supply chain, member firms of the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA) facilitate the movement of goods around the world. Freight forwarders provide a vital link in Canada's global supply chains, enhancing export capabilities and assisting in the delivery of competitive solutions to Canada's importing and exporting communities.*

CC:

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