



May 27, 2024

Sent via email to MinistrePT-LPMinister@labour-travail.gc.ca

Hon. Seamus O'Regan
Minister of Labour

Dear Minister O'Regan,

We are writing to you today regarding the potential Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) and Canadian National (CN) rail workers strike and its impact on the medical device sector in Canada.

Medical devices are essential to the delivery of health care, and include products such as personal protective equipment, implantable devices (such as pacemakers and hip/knee implants), medical imaging equipment such as MRIs, and thousands more in clinical areas across all facets of health care. These products enable clinicians to be able to provide care to patients in Canada, as well as providing Canadian patients with the ability to manage their own health care. Medtech Canada represents the manufacturers and distributors of these lifesaving and life-sustaining medical devices in Canada.

Many of our member companies utilize rail as a key mode of transport for their products in Canada in areas such as surgical, diabetes, wound care, and other product areas. Therefore, a rail strike could be highly detrimental to the health and safety of Canadians.

Many of the companies that would be affected are exploring alternate transportation options, but there are challenges on that front – particularly given that many other companies that utilize rail are also undertaking a similar process and therefore alternate options will be limited.

We are aware of the work being undertaken by the Canadian Industrial Relations Board on this situation, however, we understand that the scope of their work is limited to heavy fuel, propane, food, and water treatment materials.

While we recognize the importance of the collective bargaining process, given the importance of medical devices to the delivery of health care in Canada, we would urge you to consider all options to ensure these critically important products can continue to be delivered if a rail strike were to occur.

Medical Technology Association of Canada | Association des technologies médicales du Canada

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Hon. Seamus O'Regan

Please let us know if we can provide you or your office with any additional information or support on this highly important matter.

We look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,



Nicole DeKort
President and CEO, Medtech Canada



Raj Malik
Vice-President, Federal Affairs &
National Strategic Partnerships

Cc: Hon. Mark Holland, Minister of Health