

November 12, 2024

The Honourable David Eby  
Premier of British Columbia  
PO BOX 9041 STN  
Victoria, B.C. V8W9E1  
Sent Via Email: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject: Urgent Provincial Support Needed to Address Port Lockout Impacting B.C. Agriculture**

Dear Premier Eby,

On behalf of British Columbia's farmers and ranchers, thank you for your ongoing support for the agriculture sector and your commitment to bolstering food security in our province. The current lockout at British Columbia container terminals poses an urgent threat to our sector, and we are seeking your leadership to address the severe impact this disruption is having on B.C. farmers, ranchers, and small to medium-sized exporters who rely on timely access to international markets.

This lockout is adding to the uncertainty from previous disruptions at the Port of Montreal and comes at a crucial time during the fall shipping season—one of the busiest for agricultural exports. Farmers across B.C. are facing serious financial strain and risk losing established trade relationships due to ongoing delays. For example, greenhouse and fresh produce operations are particularly vulnerable, relying on steady supplies of inputs like fertilizers, grow pots, and building materials. Without these, operations risk stalling, impacting both current production and future crop planning. The poultry sector, already burdened by avian influenza, may face additional strain from delays in essential feed premixes, which depend on container shipments through Vancouver. These ongoing challenges are compounding the pressures on B.C. farmers province-wide.

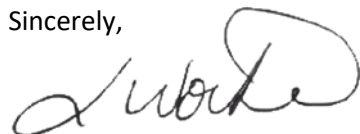
While the labour dispute is primarily a federal issue, we respectfully urge you to leverage your influence to support B.C.'s agricultural sector by advocating for swift and decisive federal action. Specifically, we request that you call on the federal government to intervene directly and consider the use of Section 107 of the Canada Labour Code and any other available tools to end this impasse and allow goods to flow through our ports without further delay.

Given the critical nature of this issue, we hope you can help amplify the need for a long-term solution that prevents the Canadian economy—and the agriculture sector in particular—from being continually disrupted by labour negotiations. Your voice, alongside those of industry leaders, will be essential to achieving a swift resolution and reinforcing the economic stability of B.C.'s farming and ranching communities.

BC Agriculture is a Member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture who is encouraging their members across the country to send a letter to their respective MP's in Ottawa via <https://stopthestrike.ca/>.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. We look forward to working together to protect the sustainability and competitiveness of British Columbia's agriculture sector.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Woike  
President, BC Agriculture Council