

Minister of Transport,
Infrastructure and Communities



Ministre des Transports,
de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

14 DEC 2006

Mr. J.C. (Cliff) Mackay
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Railway Association of Canada
1401-99 Bank Street
Ottawa ON K1P 6B9

Dear Mr. Mackay:

Thank you for your correspondence of October 17, 2006, regarding bills C-257 and C-295, which propose amendments to the *Canada Labour Code* to prohibit the use of replacement workers during a strike or lockout.

I appreciate your taking the time to bring the Railway Association of Canada's views to my attention concerning these two private members' bills.

Let me assure you that the Government of Canada does not support these bills as it believes that the current *Canada Labour Code* provisions adequately protect employees involved in a legal work stoppage.

Furthermore, the government recognizes that the proposed amendments would disturb the delicate balance of bargaining power between unions and employers in the federal jurisdiction as employers will not be able to try to operate at minimal levels during a strike or lockout. As you note, this in turn, could result in productivity losses to the Canadian economy and severely disturb the movement of goods and people across the country.

As you may know, the *Canada Labour Code* falls within the purview of the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Labour and the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec. Transport Canada has, and will continue, to work closely with Minister Blackburn and his department in developing the government's position and strategy for dealing with this very important matter. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to Minister Blackburn for his consideration.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours truly,



The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, P.C., M.P.

- c.c. The Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, P.C., M.P.
- The Honourable Diane Finley, P.C., M.P.
- The Honourable David Emerson, P.C., M.P.
- The Honourable Maxime Bernier, P.C., M.P.
- The Honourable James Flaherty, P.C., M.P.
- Mr. Merv Tweed, M.P.
- Mr. Dean Allison, M.P.
- Mr. James Rajotte, M.P.