

Work stoppage at Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC)
The Export Group stays updated on the latest developments

Thursday, August 22, 2024 – Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) railway companies are currently in a work stoppage as of 12:01 AM today, August 22, 2024. This situation is likely to create logistical and transportation issues throughout the conflict, with repercussions that could extend long after it ends. The Export Group is committed to keeping its members and the industry informed through press releases and on its LinkedIn.

Martin Lavoie, CEO of the Export Group, is participating in information exchange meetings with the ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation de Québec, as well as other stakeholders of the agri-food sector as part of the *mission Bioalimentaire* (biofood mission) of the National Civil Protection Plan. Additionally, the Export Group team will keep a constant watch on the situation through media updates and its transportation logistics network.

According to the Export Group, agro-food exporting companies will initially face the consequences of transporting inputs in their various daily operations. In addition, a return to normalcy could take numerous weeks due to the prolonged disruptions caused by the work stoppage.

« A relatively small proportion of Quebec's \$11.8 billion agri-food exports are transported by train before being shipped internationally. As a result, some sectors will be more affected than others by the loss of the rail option. However, if the situation persists, all exporters will quickly face challenges related to input supply, as well as the costs and availability of road transport. »
Martin Lavoie, CEO at the Agri-Food Export Group

The Export Group expects multiple indirect impacts on agri-food exports, especially those headed to the United States. Nearly 70% of exports are sent to this market, with a significant proportion consisting of fresh food.

« We anticipate that the increased demand on the truck fleet, as a substitute for railcars, will reduce the available transportation inventory for exports. We will be involved in supporting our members by finding solutions to mitigate the impact of this conflict, particularly by cooperating with our partner carriers. »

Catherine Richard, Director – Logistics & Transport at the Agri-Food Export Group

In Canada, trains move around \$380 billion in goods annually, accounting for half of the country's exports. The Export Group expects substantial delays for Quebec's agri-food exports to certain Asian countries transiting through Vancouver.

About Agri-Food Export Group

With over 450 members, the Export Agri-Food Group offers a range of services to support Quebec's agri-food export businesses and facilitate their access to Canadian and international markets. As the initiator of the Alizés Awards and the Agri-Food Export Summit, and one of the shareholders of SIAL Canada, the association is a key player in the industry.

-30-

Source and informations:

Anne Vaillancourt
Communications Director
Agri-Food Export Group
annevaillancourt@groupeexport.ca
819 342-2668