

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL

Chamber of Commerce

The Hon. Anita Anand,
President of the Treasury Board
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R5

Mark Weber,
National President, PSAC-CIU
1741 Woodward Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K2C 0P9

Dear PSAC-CIU and Government of Canada,

Subject: Urgent Need to Avoid Potential CBSA Strike to Prevent Economic and Operational Disruptions

I am writing to you on behalf of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce to express our deep concern regarding the potential strike by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) employees, represented by the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). We strongly urge both parties to reach a resolution and avoid the significant disruptions and economic costs that would arise from such an action.

The Windsor-Essex region, a critical hub for trade and travel between Canada and the United States, stands to be severely impacted by a strike. The CBSA plays an essential role in maintaining the smooth flow of goods, services, and people across our borders. Any disruptions, particularly during the busy summer travel season, could lead to:

Economic Costs: Border delays and increased processing times will directly impact businesses that rely on timely cross-border trade. The Windsor-Detroit border is the busiest commercial land border crossing in North America, handling over 27% of all Canada-U.S. trade, amounting to more than \$400 million in goods crossing daily. Disruptions can result in financial losses, increased operational costs, and potentially jeopardize contractual agreements and supply chains

Operational Disruptions: The anticipated strike could cause significant delays and congestion at land crossings, airports, seaports, and rail entry points. Although essential workers are expected to continue their duties, the reduction in workforce and heightened security measures will undoubtedly slow down operations, affecting both commercial and passenger traffic. This will lead to increased wait times and potential bottlenecks, severely impacting industries dependent on just-in-time delivery systems.

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Reputational Damage: Prolonged disruptions at the border can tarnish Canada's reputation as a reliable trade partner. This may lead to long-term consequences, including reduced investor confidence. The auto industry, in particular, heavily relies on the seamless movement of parts across the Windsor-Detroit border. Any delays can disrupt manufacturing processes and lead to substantial economic losses. The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce acknowledges the importance of fair and equitable labor agreements. However, we believe that the interests of the broader Canadian economy and the public must be a priority. We urge both PSAC and the federal government to engage in constructive dialogue, prioritize negotiation, and reach a resolution swiftly to avoid the strike.

We trust that both sides recognize the urgency and will work diligently to prevent the strike, ensuring the continued prosperity and stability of our border operations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Rakesh Naidu
President & CEO
Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce

Supported by:

Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce
Leamington & District Chamber of Commerce
Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce
Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce