



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

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November 28, 2018

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

At the Council meeting of the Canadian Association of University Teachers held this past weekend in Ottawa, delegates representing more than 72,000 academic and general staff from universities and colleges across the country unanimously passed a motion condemning your government's use of back-to-work legislation to end the negotiations between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

The legislation violates the right to free collective bargaining. In 2011 when the previous Conservative government ordered postal workers back to work, Ontario Superior Justice Firestone ruled the back-to-work legislation unconstitutional as it violated Charter rights to freedom of association and freedom of expression. The Supreme Court of Canada also declared in 2015 that the right to strike is protected by the Charter.

The government's interference in this matter means that many of the serious issues in negotiation will be unresolved. Working conditions of postal workers have deteriorated over the last decade partly because Canada Post has failed to properly address the significant increase in parcel volumes and the subsequent burden it has placed on workers. The issue of workplace injuries at Canada Post, which have increased by nearly 45 per cent over the past two years, also remains unresolved. Today, the injury rate for a letter carrier is eight times the average for other federally-regulated workers.

The back-to-work legislation disappoints working people across the country and across

sectors who strive to bargain in good faith to address health and safety, equitable treatment, fair wages and working conditions, and exercise their democratic rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Robinson
Executive Director

cc: The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour (Patty.Hajdu@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)
The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada (mcu@justice.gc.ca)
Mike Palecek, National President, CUPW (mpalecek@cupw-sttp.org)