SMA
Saskatchewan
Mining Association

Canada's West Coast Ports Labour Disruption of grave concern for Saskatchewan's mining sector and their ability to support global food security.

Regina, July 4, 2023 –The Saskatchewan Mining Association (SMA) expresses grave concern regarding the work stoppage at Canada's West Coast ports. Saskatchewan's potash producing companies rely on these ports to export potash fertilizer to international destinations. Canada exports 95% of potash to global markets with the majority flowing through the Port of Vancouver.

SMA is calling on the Government of Canada to take all steps necessary to minimize the serious financial impacts the strike action has on the Canadian economy including Saskatchewan potash producers. Saskatchewan's potash producing companies, Nutrien, The Mosaic Company and K+S Potash Canada, as well as Canpotex, rely on these ports to move their bulk commodity to export markets. A missed shipment means a farmer may have to skip applying essential crop nutrients – and less food will be produced.

Saskatchewan is the world's largest producer of potash, providing approximately 37% of the world's supply of this essential fertilizer, directly employing over 5,800 residents, with an annual sales value of over **18 Billion** CDN$ in 2022. Canadian potash is made with approximately 50% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than potash produced by global competitors – Belarus and Russia. Timely access to fertilizer products is essential in supporting Canadian and global food security and in maintaining Canada's reputation as a reliable exporter and trading partner.

Mining is a major user of Canada's ports and is the largest shipping sector by volume by both rail and marine. Disruptions to Canada's West Coast ports has damaging effects on the mining industry and is very harmful to Canada's economy and reputation, directly affecting its integrated supply chain and Canadian and global customers.

"We call on the Government of Canada to take all possible steps to ensure that port service disruptions are resolved as soon as possible to end the crisis", said Brad Sigurdson, Vice President, Environment, Safety and Regulatory Affairs. We know from past port and rail service disruptions that even a few days of stopped or delayed services takes the system weeks to recover, with a cost in the billions of dollars.

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The Saskatchewan mining industry is a major sector of Saskatchewan's economy, representing 12% of provincial GDP in 2021. Saskatchewan's mining sector employs 30,000 people directly and indirectly across the province with a payroll of over $1.1B to direct employees. It is proportionally the largest private sector employer of Indigenous peoples in the province. Saskatchewan mining companies purchased >$2.2B of goods and services from Saskatchewan suppliers in 2021 including >$368 M from businesses owned by Indigenous agencies and peoples.

About SMA

Saskatchewan Mining Association (SMA) is an industry-driven organization representing the mining and mineral exploration industry within Saskatchewan. SMA advocates on behalf of members on issues related to provincial and federal regulatory changes, develops and supports educational outreach programs, organizes and hosts public outreach and membership events. Please visit http://saskmining.ca/