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TIME FOR OTTAWA TO SHOW LEADERSHIP IN PORT STRIKE

RICHMOND – Conservative MP John Cummins (Delta – Richmond East) today challenged the federal government to show leadership and bring an end to the five-week-old truckers' strike that is blocking business at Vancouver ports.

“The dispute has dragged on long enough. The strike is hurting local business owners and it's damaging the reputation of the Port of Vancouver,” Cummins said. “It's time for Ottawa to work with B.C. and bring all sides back to the bargaining table.”

Conservative Party Labour Critic Ed Komarnicki has been communicating with stakeholders involved in the dispute. Komarnicki is of the view that the federal Labour Minister Joe Fontana and federal Transport Minister Jean Lapierre should be taking a more active role in resolving the dispute.

Fontana appointed Vince Ready to facilitate talks between the truckers and the transport companies. Since negotiations stopped earlier this month, Fontana has been the invisible minister failing to provide the leadership necessary to resolve this dispute.

“At the very least, Ottawa should now be urging all sides to go back to the bargaining table,” Cummins said. “Business has already begun moving from the Port of Vancouver to Seattle and other U.S. ports. If this dispute drags on for much longer, the business loss to U.S. ports will be permanent.”

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