

NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA MUST INTERVENE TO END CN STRIKE

November 20, 2019 (Winnipeg, MB) – Pulse Canada and the Canadian Special Crops Association (CSCA) are calling on the Government of Canada to do everything in its power to end the CN rail strike to limit the damage to the Canadian pulse and special crop industry and the wider Canadian economy.

Canada is the world’s largest producer and exporter of peas and lentils, accounting for more than one-third of all global pulse trade. Canadian pulse growers, processors and exporters rely on the railways to move their products from the Prairies to port terminals and could face dire consequences if the rail strike continues.

“We’re urging the Canadian government to take swift action to ensure our products continue to move to market and minimize the potential for significant losses across our industry,” says Allison Ammeter, Chair of Pulse Canada. “Farmers are already feeling the impacts of a late harvest and ongoing trade issues – this is another major challenge in a difficult year.”

The fall season - October to December - is the peak period for grain demand, with approximately 40,000 rail cars ordered each month. With CN accounting for roughly half of those rail cars, the impact on rail movement is significant. For example, the first week of November saw the third highest grain volume moved on the CN network this grain year, with 648,601 tonnes moved and a shipper demand of 5,880 rail cars for that week alone.

“Similar disruptions in the off-peak periods in the past have forced facility shutdowns and layoffs across our industry,” says Quinton Stewart, Chair of the Canadian Special Crops Association (CSCA). “We simply cannot afford to have half our rail capacity out of commission during peak shipping season – the government needs to act now to restore rail service and limit the impact on Canadian farmers, processors and exporters and their customers around the world.”

Pulse Canada is the national association representing growers, traders and processors of Canadian pulse crops, including peas, beans, lentils and chickpeas. The Canadian Special Crops Association is a non-profit alliance of over 100 processors, exporters and service providers working together to advance Canada’s pulse and special crops industry.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Tracey Shelton
Vice President, Marketing & Communications
Pulse Canada
tshelton@pulsecanada.com
O: 204-925-3787 | M: 204-997-9715

