



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION CANADA

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Honourable Justine Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street,
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A2
By email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

February 28, 2022

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

First, we would like to congratulate your government for all that it has done for the people of the Ukraine so far.

I am writing on behalf of the Rank-and-File Members of the ILWU Canada to address the current war being waged on the citizens of Ukraine by the Russian government.

The ILWU has fought injustices around the world since its inception, while we work to move Canada's trade, our members face the world through our trade. Our unions history to social movements is strong. Whether it was leading the "End the Arms Race" demonstrations in BC or by working towards ending apartheid in South Africa, as well as even refusing to load scrap metal that was being sent to Japan in the early days of World War 2. The ILWU and its Rank-and-File have always done what is best for our union and therefore what is best for our nation.

For generations we have worked with the International Transport Workers Federation protecting the rights of exploited seafarers calling on Canadian ports and protecting all workers around the globe. Transportation trade unionists the world over live by our motto "An Injury to One Is An Injury To All". I put to you now Mr. Prime Minister the people of Ukraine have been injured by an aggressor that does not believe anyone will stand up to them. It is time for Canada to do everything necessary protect the workers of Ukraine and the Workers of the World.

While Canada has already put in place limited sanctions and provided certain material support, we call on the federal government to follow the lead of nations such as France and the United Kingdom. France has arrested a Russian vessel the Baltic Leader on February 26th. On February 28th the United Kingdom has called on UK ports to refuse entry of Russian owned or controlled cargo vessels.

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We call upon the federal government to step up and to cease all maritime trade with Russia and its allies. We directly call on you to ban all Russian owned, Russian flagged vessels and Russian chartered vessels from entering Canadian ports except in the case of a marine safety incident, even with this we urge caution. Further we call on the Canadian government to ensure that all cargo originating from Russia or bound for Russia on any vessel is halted. Our government must ensure that Canadian commodities and goods bound for Russia are halted.

By the time you receive this letter the ILWU Canada will have put a ban on all Russian vessels and cargo coming into the Ports of British Columbia. Our union will not work any vessel or cargo that has been identified as Russian flagged or Russian owned effective immediately.

In Strength and Solidarity with Workers of every Nation,



Rob Ashton
President
ILWU Canada

CC: Chrystia Freeland Deputy Prime Minister of Canada
Candice Bergen Interim Leader of the Official Opposition
Jagmeet Singh Leader of the NDP
Yves-Francois Blanchet Leader of the Bloc
Seamus O'Regan Minister of Labour
Omar Alghabra Minister of Transport
Stephen Cotton General Secretary International Transport Workers Federation
Paddy Crumlin President International Transport Workers
Peter Lahay National Co-ordinator ITF
Pat Murphy International Longshore Association Vice President
Martin Lapierre President CUPE 375 Longshore
Bea Bruske President CLC
Laird Cronk President BC Federation of Labour
All Locals and Affiliates of the ILWU Canada
Mike Leonard President BCMEA
Jason Fletcher, Prince Rupert Grain Terminals
Peter Idema, Vancouver Terminal Elevator Association