

# CANADA Daily News and Updates August 23rd 2024

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## Air Updates

### **Air Canada Pilots Vote to Give Strike Mandate to Their Union**

Air Canada pilots voted to give their union a strike mandate as negotiations over a new labour agreement have been stalled for more than a year. Workers could walk off the job as soon as mid-September.

The Air Line Pilots Association, representing Air Canada's more than 5,400 aviators, is in a federal conciliation process with Air Canada until August 26, which will be followed by a 21-day cooling off period. The workers will be in a legal strike position starting September 17.

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).

### **Steady TAC Index Hides Turbulence Beneath**

Global airfreight rates are little changed according to the TAC Index price reporting agency, but there is movement on individual lanes.

The overall Baltic Air Freight Index (BAI00) was down by just 0.1% in the week to August 19, maintaining the solid pattern of recent weeks. The year-on-year gain now stands at 10.8%.

TAC quoted sources as saying that the market is generally holding steady, in the face of normal summer season softness due to extra passenger bellyhold capacity.

The unchanged overall picture did hide considerable movement up and down on individual lanes, however.

Read more in an [article from Air Cargo News](#).

## Ocean Updates

### Port of Vancouver Operations Update – August 22

With the Government of Canada's order to the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) to assist the railways and TCRC in settling negotiations by imposing binding arbitration, the Port of Vancouver continues to take steps to maintain port fluidity. This includes requesting that inbound ships slow down for near-time arrivals, managing anchorages and monitoring ships holding offshore in the region.

The majority of the port's marine cargo terminals are expecting impacts from this disruption, as two-thirds of Port of Vancouver cargo and 90% of its exports rely on rail.

Read more in an [update from the Port of Vancouver](#).

## Rail Updates

### Railways Prepare to Restart After Federal Government Forces Binding Arbitration in Labour Dispute

Canada's Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon is intervening to end a work stoppage that saw this country's two largest railways grind to a standstill Thursday, by forcing the parties into binding arbitration.

MacKinnon said he is invoking powers under Section 107 of the Canada Labour Code to direct the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) to "assist the parties in settling the outstanding terms of their collective agreements by imposing final binding arbitration."

MacKinnon has also ordered the board to extend the term on the parties' current collective agreements until new deals are signed, and is calling for operations on both railways to resume "forthwith."

Read more in an [article from CTV News](#).

### **Following Order by Minister of Labour, CN Resumes Train Movements**

CN announced yesterday that, effective 18:00 ET, it ended its lockout and immediately initiated its recovery plan.

As CN awaits the formal order from the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB), the company made this decision in order to expedite recovery of the economy.

Read more in an [update from CN](#).

### **CPKC Prepares to Restart Railway Operations, Awaits CIRB Order**

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) yesterday said it is preparing to restart railway operations in Canada following the Canadian Minister of Labour's announcement that he will exercise his authority under Section 107 of the *Canada Labour Code* to direct the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) to impose final binding arbitration and for railway operations to resume forthwith.

CPKC will follow the order of the CIRB once it executes the Minister's direction. Its teams are already preparing for the safe and orderly resumption of its rail network and further details about timing will be provided once it receives the CIRB's order.

Read more in a [press release from CPKC](#).

*CPKC said in a note to customers yesterday at 7:30 pm ET that the CIRB had already convened the parties for a case management conference that evening, consistent with the Minister's stated expectation that the CIRB execute his direction expeditiously.*

### **CPKC Disappointed by TCRC's Decision to Dispute Minister's Direction to Resume Railway Operations**

In a case management conference convened by the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) at 9:00 pm ET last night, the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) representing the Train and Engine division and Rail Canada Traffic Controller division refused to discuss resumption of service, said CPKC in a statement. The union said it will make submissions to

challenge the constitutionality of the Minister's direction, as well as the CIRB's discretion to proceed with any order.

Another case management conference is scheduled for 10:00 am ET today to further hear submissions by the parties.

While the Minister directed that the CIRB proceed expeditiously, any decision by the CIRB on the resumption of service will be delayed. CPKC remains prepared to resume service as soon as it is ordered to do so by the CIRB.

Read more in a [press release from CPKC](#).