



December 4, 2024

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Labour and Seniors
Member of Parliament for Gatineau, Quebec
Place du Portage Phase II
165 de l'Hôtel-de-Ville Street
Gatineau, Quebec J8X 3X2
Via electronic mail

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Quebec Lieutenant
Member of Parliament for Québec, Quebec
Place du Portage, Phase III, Room 18A1
11 Laurier Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0S5
Via electronic mail

Dear Ministers:

On behalf of Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association (Landscape Ontario) and its 3,000 member companies, I am writing to express our deep concern with the ongoing strike by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers that has halted Canada Post services for more than two weeks. This disruption has had, and continues to have, a significant impact on our operations and on thousands of our member businesses who rely on Canada Post every single day.

As a not for profit, member-based organization supporting the landscape horticultural trades, Landscape Ontario depends on Canada Post in a variety of ways. For example, we regularly receive membership payments through the mail, we receive exhibitor and sponsorship payments critical to our ability to present our annual trade show and conference in January, and we mail out thousands of copies of our magazines, fulfilling our commitment to our community of readers and advertisers. Currently in the final weeks before our annual trade show and conference – the organization's largest source of revenue – we find ourselves unable to mail out badges to attendees, speakers and exhibitors for the first time in our history. To provide a sense of the financial impact of this element alone, we estimate that we will incur more than \$30,000 to implement a workaround solution.

As a result of this significant service disruption, we are exploring more permanent solutions to reduce our dependence on Canada's postal system to avoid operational impacts in the future.



The Landscape Ontario membership is primarily comprised of small, family run businesses providing landscape and horticulture services – everything from design, to commercial grounds maintenance, to residential landscape construction, retail plant sales, and more. A great many of these businesses rely on Canada Post to receive payment from clients. Unfortunately, this disruption is exacerbating an already challenging season.

While we recognize the efforts made to date with respect to finding a resolution amongst all parties, we urge you to intervene and resolve the dispute without delay. Not for profit organizations and small businesses simply cannot bear the financial burden of inaction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Salemi", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Salemi, CAE
Executive Director
Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association