



TEAMSTERS CANADA RAIL CONFERENCE DIVISION 320



Social and Communications Office
20358-118th Ave
Maple Ridge, B.C.
V2X 2M4
www.tcrc320.org

November 30, 2009

Subject: Open Letter to MP Randy Kamp, PM-MR-Mission

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Appended you will find an e-mail written by the undersigned to my MP. I urge you to do the same.

Here is the link once again to all MP's [Members of Parliament Contact List](#)

In Solidarity,

Murray Douglas
TCRC Div 320
S&C Officer
604-312-1074

Dear Honourable Member Kamp,

I am writing to you regarding the current labour dispute between Canadian National Railway and Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) Locomotive Engineers. I work at CP Rail and am represented by the same Union. I work closely through the Fraser Valley and canyon with these people that are out on strike. I personally know many of them.

Firstly let me say that the manner in which the media is portraying the Locomotive Engineers (specifically an article in the Globe and Mail of November 29) is slanderous and wrong. No railroader I know who is paid on a mileage basis, works 37 hours per week. On average, we work a minimum of 48+ hours, and that does not include the time spent at the away from home terminal. Any time spent waiting for our connection, that is less than 10 hours, is NOT ON PAY.

If you were to include all hours, paid and not paid, the total per week would more than likely be upwards of 80 or 90 hours per week. We also endure little or no sleep from time to time due to poor line up information, and 2 hour notices to be at work, that sometimes comes out of the blue. How many people do you know who don't know when they will be working, and only are certain when the phone rings two hours in advance?

We can make no plans with friends or families, professional appointments always are made with the provision that we cannot live up to the required 24 hours cancellation/penalty. One day we'll go to work at 2:00 am, and be gone for 24+ hours, the next time we go it'll be 10:00 pm and we'll be gone for 19 hours. We never know how long we will be away from home. We have no set days off, in the service I'm referring to.

3800 miles is hard enough to make under these conditions. By the time we reach that mark, we're usually very tired, and don't have a lot left. Adding to the 3800 mile cap would only take from the time with our families.

Then there's the constant concern of coming around a corner at 25 to 50 mph, and having the mountain fall down in front of you. You do not have to look far to see how many incidents and fatalities there has been between Vancouver and Kamloops in the last few years to see what I'm referring to.

Please understand, this is the job we have chosen. We deal with these issues, but it takes a toll on us and our families. It particularly hurts when one sees us portrayed in the media as money hungry, do nothing workers. That is not the case. Many of us pay dearly. I realize you do not control the media, **however please do not allow them to influence any decisions you make, or votes you cast regarding our livelihoods. Also, please do not allow corporate greed to influence your votes and decisions.**

Finally, as a constituent in your riding, **I would like to respectfully ask you to vote NO on any proposed legislation that is put before Parliament, legislating the Locomotive Engineers back to work.** Legislation and binding arbitration is not the way to go.

Perhaps our Government should look at all aspects of Hunter Harrison and CN first. The continued violations to labour laws, environmental laws, and safety issues should be setting off bells and whistles for everyone, including our Labour Minister.

There is another National Railway, we are still working. The transportation network is not crippled due to this strike, as some would have you believe.

Again, **PLEASE VOTE NO TO ANY PROPOSED BACK TO WORK LEGISLATION!**

Thank you for your time, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Murray Douglas
20358-118th Ave
Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 2M4