

August 18, 2025

The Honourable Buckley Belanger, M.P.
Secretary of State (Rural Development)
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

VIA EMAIL: buckley.belanger@parl.gc.ca

Dear Secretary of State Belanger,

RE: Respect the Charter and let workers bargain

Your federal Liberal government has unfairly and unconstitutionally intervened in the collective bargaining process between Air Canada and their flight attendants – members of my union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). By directing the Canadian Industrial Relations Board to impose arbitration and declare the flight attendants' job action illegal, your government has rewarded Air Canada bosses for bad-faith bargaining and stripped dignity and Charter-protected rights from workers.

We defy your Liberal government's illegal and heavy-handed tactics.

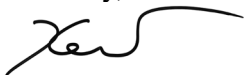
As the lone representative of the federal government in Saskatchewan, the 31,000 Saskatchewan workers I represent urge you to use your position as a Liberal Member of Parliament and a Secretary of State to persuade your government to revoke its directive to the Canadian Industrial Relations Board, and let the parties engage in a free collective bargaining process – inclusive of the right to strike.

The workers on strike are over 70% women and are fighting for basic dignity: pay for all hours worked, wages that keep pace with inflation, and an end to poverty wages for junior flight attendants that leave many relying on food banks despite full-time employment.

Air Canada's refusal to negotiate fairly is staggering. While the airline posted billions in profits over the last two years, it pays junior flight attendants \$1,952 per month – less than federal minimum wage. Their counter-proposal? An 'increase' after a 10-year contract that doesn't match inflation, leaving workers further behind. This is exploitation, not bargaining.

I look forward to your quick response, and I am happy to meet with you should that be useful.

Sincerely,



Kent Peterson
President, CUPE Saskatchewan

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