



President
François Laporte
Président

June 9, 2020

BY EMAIL

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing this letter as a follow-up to the one we sent last April to your government.

It is no secret that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on all sectors of activity. Nurses, orderlies, cashiers and a few other trades were rightly thanked in a number of ways. However, I feel it is more than time to thank the truck drivers for the discreet but fundamental work they have done for the Canadian community.

At the height of the crisis, the daily lives of these workers were not always easy. Who has not heard about the washrooms that were not available for truck drivers who spend long hours in the cab of their vehicles? Or the restaurants that no longer provided access to the counter to order a hot meal? And let's not forget the closure of hundreds of rest areas across North America that deprived many truck drivers of a deserved shower after long hours of work.

Truck drivers have ensured that the supply chain is working without interruption. They continued to make deliveries bravely, without asking for anything in return. Store shelves were filled by them. Hospitals were stocked with medical supplies because a truck driver took to the road that day, despite the risks.

Access to quality and affordable food was one of the challenges truck drivers faced during the pandemic. Increases of up to 50% have been seen in some parts of North America which has created a serious financial impact for tens of thousands of truck drivers.

Therefore, I believe that an increase in the meal allowance for all truck drivers would be one way to reward them for all the sacrifices they have made. Therefore, the federal government would send a strong signal of solidarity and recognition to the trucking industry. Over the past 12 weeks, truck drivers have kept the Canadian economy going and ensured the well-being of their fellow citizens. We must now thank them for their efforts and sacrifices.

The daily lives of Canadians would be much more difficult without the contribution of truck drivers. Increasing the meal allowance is the right thing to do to thank them for their good work.

I look forward to a positive response, and I remain at your disposal should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



FL:kt

C.C.: The Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport
The Honourable Filomena Tassi, Minister of Labour
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Intergovernmental Affairs
The Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance