

# CANADA Daily News and Updates November 13rd 2024

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## Air Updates

### Cargo Cheers as Canada Lifts Restrictions on China Flights

The North American wall against further encroachment by Chinese airlines is becoming porous: The Canadian government has decided to withdraw flight restrictions on China.

In response to the pandemic, in 2021 the authorities limited the number of flights operated by Chinese carriers to Canada to two scheduled round-trip passenger flights a week, raised the following year to six. These orders also prohibited non-stop flights.

Now Ottawa has rescinded the order, opening the way for Chinese, and Canadian, airlines to step up flying between the two countries, although it is not clear what prompted the move.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

## Ocean Updates

### BCMEA Negotiations Updates: Minister of Labour Orders End to Labour Disruption at Ports, Imposes Binding Arbitration

This morning at 10 am ET, Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon announced he will use his powers under Section 107 of the Canada Labour Code and direct the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) to order parties at the Port of Montreal and across Canada's West Coast to resume operations and duties, and to impose binding arbitration on the parties in order to reach a settlement.

The BCMEA intends to follow direction received from the CIRB and will inform member employers of operational updates as soon as possible.

The BCMEA and its members are committed to working to strengthen Canada's reputation as a trusted trading partner and rebuilding labour stability for the long term.

From a [BCMEA update](#).

### **Towards the Resumption of Operations: MPA Launches Its Recovery Plan**

Following the decision by the Canadian Minister of Labour regarding the ongoing labour dispute at the Port of Montreal, the Montreal Port Authority (MPA) is initiating its plan to resume operations across all terminals. Depending on the decision by the Canada Industrial Relations Board, cargo handling activities will gradually resume over the coming days in both Montreal and Contrecoeur, in collaboration with port and intermodal partners. It will take several weeks to clear terminal backlogs and restore fluidity in the supply chain.

"The end of this labour dispute means that we can resume operations and aim to restart supply chains across all our activities as soon as possible. I thank those who are facilitating the resumption of operations for our partners and clients. Restoring services will allow us to resume international trade, benefiting thousands of businesses and consumers who rely on reliable and smooth port activities," said Julie Gascon, President and CEO of the MPA.

Read more in a [press release from the Port of Montreal](#).

### **Container Rates Up for Second Straight Week**

Drewry's World Container Index (WCI) went up seven percent, to US\$3,444 per 40-ft container, last week, increasing for the second straight week after a steady decline since early July.

The WCI composite index for the week of November 4 to 8 is now 67 percent below the previous pandemic peak of US\$10,377 in September 2021, but 142 percent more than the pre-pandemic average US\$1,420 in 2019.

Read more in an [article from Inside Logistics](#).

## **International Business/Government**

### **French Rail Workers Plan Strike 'Double-Whammy' over Fret SNCF Breakup**

French rail workers have lined up a double-whammy of strikes in the Christmas build-up, with a 37-hour walkout for a fortnight this month and an indefinite follow-up next month.

The action is something of a last-ditch effort to halt the looming breakup of nationalized freight operator Fret SNCF into two firms, Hexafret and Technis, in January.

On X, the CFDT-Cheminots, CGT-Cheminots, Sud-Rail, and Unsa-Ferroviaire unions confirmed their intention to strike for 37 hours on November 20.

The unions said that, without a moratorium on Fret SNCF's dismantling, member workers would engage in "limited but renewable" 24-hour strikes from December 11, with no end date.

It follows the state-owned rail operator's decision in May to break up the freight operator after an EC investigation into allegations of unfair state aid.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).