

# CANADA Daily News and Updates November 15th 2024

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## Ocean Updates

### Canadian Unions Plan Court Challenges to Arbitration Ending Port Strikes

The unions representing the foremen for ports in British Columbia and the dockworkers in Montreal both responded angrily to the announcement that the federal government was mandating final and binding arbitration in their contract disputes.

On the West Coast, where the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Ship & Dock Foremen Local 514 has been locked out since November 4, the union leadership called the government's decision "an insult" and said it was denying workers' bargaining rights.

"We will fight the arbitrated forced contract in the courts," said Frank Morena, president of the local, in a press release. "Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon has unfairly given the BC Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) the one-sided federal intervention it wanted from locking out workers and closing BC ports."

At the same time, the Quebec branch of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), which represents the Port of Montreal's nearly 1,200 dockworkers, called it a "dark day for workers' rights." In a press release, the union asserted, "The right to collective bargaining is a constitutional right."

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

### ILA Breaks Off East Coast Port Contract Talks

The International Longshoremen's Association has broken off contract negotiations with East and Gulf Coast port employers, accusing them of pushing automation technology into a new coastwise labour pact that would eliminate union jobs.

The ILA and employers represented by the United States Maritime Alliance this week resumed bargaining on a new six-year master contract covering 45,000 union workers involved in container handling at dozens of East and Gulf Coast ports.

In a statement posted to social media and then taken down, the ILA said that in meetings in New Jersey, “USMX introduced language in their proposal for semi-automated equipment to be used at ILA ports, which this union outright rejected. The ILA recognized this as a renewed attempt by USMX to eliminate ILA jobs with automation and broke off talks.”

Read more in an [article from American Shipper](#).

### **CMA CGM Changes Course on Plan to Reroute Service Through Red Sea**

Pressure from customers may have caused French mainline operator CMA CGM to u-turn on plans to operate its INDAMEX (Indian Subcontinent-U.S. East Coast) service through the Suez Canal, just weeks after announcing it.

It said it would drop the lengthy detour around the Cape of Good Hope in favour of using the Red Sea transit, and the reversal is likely due to cargo insurers refusing to cover this while the threat of Houthi attacks persists.

CMA CGM has not responded to *The Loadstar's* request for comment. But Vespucci Maritime's Lars Jensen said in a *LinkedIn* post: “It appears this rapid change in perspective might have been caused by customer pushback.”

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

## **Rail and Truck Updates**

### **Protesters in Mexico Resume Blockade at Texas Border Bridge**

For the second time in 24 hours, protests on the Mexico side of the World Trade Bridge are disrupting cross-border cargo traffic into the U.S.

Demonstrators in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, began blocking the roadway that connects the bridge to Laredo, Texas, around 1 pm on Wednesday.

All northbound cargo trucks from Mexico to the U.S. are being redirected to the Colombia Solidarity International Bridge, according to Laredo authorities. The Colombia Solidarity bridge is about 19 miles east of the World Trade Bridge.

The protesters are reportedly relatives of victims of the Mexican Army and the country's National Guard who are demanding justice, according to La Jornada.

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

## Canadian Business/Government

### Canada Post: No Agreement So Far as Work Stoppage Deadline Nears

The clock is ticking for Canada Post and its workers' union to reach an agreement to avoid a potential work stoppage.

Canada Post has said it intends to continue operating despite having issued a lockout notice to the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), which has served its own strike notices for both the urban operations unit and the rural and suburban mail carriers (RSMC) unit.

"Canada Post has notified the union that, unless new agreements are reached, the current collective agreements will no longer apply as of Friday," said Lisa Liu, a Canada Post spokesperson.

The union will also be in a legal position to begin strike activity, as of 12:01 am Eastern on Friday, but it's unclear what job action could look like. When issuing its own 72-hour strike notices Tuesday morning, CUPW did not say if workers would walk off the job.

The two sides have been engaged in talks for almost a year in an attempt to reach collective agreements.

Read more in an [article from Global News](#).