

February 20, 2024

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, M.P.
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Rodriguez,

Re: Screening officer layoffs at the Victoria Airport

I am writing regarding recent layoffs of security screening officers at Victoria International Airport.

Earlier this month, CATSA directed its third-party screening contractor to disqualify 36 security screening employees, leading to a termination of their employment. CATSA made this decision despite the contractor's conclusion that the employees' conduct did not warrant termination, and despite the development of a corrective action plan that included additional training. It is troubling that CATSA seems to have interfered with the decision-making of the employer without conducting any direct investigation of their own.

I'm aware the union representing the affected workers, The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), reached out to your office on February 8, 2024 to request an urgent meeting on this matter, but almost two weeks later, they have received no indication from your office that you intend to discuss the situation with them.

This is incredibly frustrating for the workers who have lost their livelihoods and are waiting for answers. I implore you to meet with representatives from the IAMAW as soon as possible to hear their concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt action and response.

Sincerely,



Taylor Bachrach
Member of Parliament, Skeena-Bulkley Valley
NDP Transport Critic



Laurel Collins
Member of Parliament, Victoria



Alexandre Boulerice
Member of Parliament, Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie
Deputy Leader of the NDP



Randall Garrison
Member of Parliament, Esquimalt—Saanich—Sooke

CC: The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers