

Port of Montreal lockout halts operations

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The following is compiled by Russell A. Farrow Limited, based on media reports from the CBC and the Montreal Gazette.

As of 8 a.m. Monday morning no containers will be unloaded from ships at docks operated by the Maritime Employers Association (MEA) until further notice. The grain terminal, which is operated by the Montreal Port Authority, will continue operations as usual.

Commercial operations at the Port of Montreal came to a halt Monday morning after the MEA locked out 850 longshoremen in an ongoing labour dispute.

The lockout means no commercial activity for the port until further notice — except for the grain silos, run by the port authority itself.

It is estimated that Merchandise could be delayed for a week or more.

The longshoremen were on picket lines early Monday morning in advance of an 8 a.m. lockout deadline.

Longshoremen have been working without a contract since Dec. 31, 2008, because of dissent over wages, overtime and job security.

All port entrances are blocked until further notice, and boats are being redirected to the U.S.

This has caused uncertainty at the harbour, a spokesman for the MEA said. Ships are already being rerouted to New York and Norfolk, Va.

The Longshoremen's Union is a member of CUPE.

Read more at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/montreal/story/2010/07/19/montreal-port-lockout.html#ixzz0u94BGMZB>

or:

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/business/longshoremen+locked+Port+Montreal/3294246/story.html>

or

<http://www.mea.ca/en/news-and-publications/communiques.html>