

May 10, 2024



The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos  
Minister of Public Services and Procurement  
Sent to: [Jean-Yves.Duclos@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jean-Yves.Duclos@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez  
Minister of Transport  
Sent to: [Pablo.Rodriguez@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Pablo.Rodriguez@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Soraya Martinez Ferrada  
Minister of Tourism and Minister responsible for the Economic Development Agency of  
Canada for the Regions of Quebec  
Sent to: [Soraya.MartinezFerrada@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Soraya.MartinezFerrada@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Ministers Duclos, Rodriguez, and Martinez Ferrada,

We are writing to you to raise our concerns regarding the dire situation with the LaSalle Causeway in Kingston, Ontario.

It has become clear that federal inaction and incompetence have put the Kingston tourism industry, including operators and workers, and affected communities in a precarious situation entering the peak tourism season this summer.

The bridge was damaged in March, yet it took the federal government five weeks to simply convene a meeting to provide a briefing on the situation. Given the importance of the tourism sector, this delay and inaction is shameful. While the local community and businesses have suffered financial hardship and lost key infrastructure that enables access and free movement between their communities, the federal government has left these communities and its residents in the dark with no timely solution that accounts for the urgency of the situation.

Three ships that offer island cruises throughout the summer are currently trapped in the Inner Harbour, with the 2024 summer tourism season fast approaching. This has and will continue to have devastating consequences for Kingston and the surrounding area, considering approximately 10% of the local workforce is employed in the tourism industry.

Tourism businesses expect to lose millions of dollars in revenue and will have to lay off dozens of workers. This will also lead to detrimental impacts across the community and other related industries, such as the service industry.

While the re-opening of the LaSalle Causeway has now been scheduled for some time in July, there is still no certainty or a strong contingency plan to get these ships and people moving again in the interim. Your government has been less than transparent while businesses and community members have been greatly concerned about and scrambling to adjust for the worst-case scenario. After 9 years of this Liberal government, this is what Canadians have come to expect of our federal government – and it is unacceptable.

The LaSalle Causeway bridge is owned by the federal government. This issue directly impacts your respective portfolios as Ministers of Public Services and Procurement, Transport, and Tourism, and you should recognise the greatest need for an urgent response and solution. For many people in the community, it appears as though you are casually bearing the responsibility while tourism operators, tourism workers, tourists, and local Kingstonians bear the burden and cost of your inaction.

Common Sense Conservatives call on the federal government to do better for the City of Kingston, its residents, and the local tourism businesses and workers, whose peak tourism season is at risk because of federal delays and inaction.

Sincerely,



Kelly Block  
Conservative Shadow Minister for Public Services and Procurement



Mark Strahl  
Conservative Shadow Minister for Transport



Tony Baldinelli  
Conservative Shadow Minister for Tourism



Michael Barrett  
Conservative Shadow Minister for Ethics and Accountable Government