

March 30, 2023

Via email: pm@pm.gc.ca justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON

Re: [Reject the Rogers-Shaw merger](#)

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

On behalf of 225,000 workers in nearly every economic sector in Canada, including close to 7,000 Steelworkers at Rogers, Shaw and TELUS I write to ask you to put the jobs and communities of these workers – as well as the best interest of everyday Canadians across the country – ahead of the desires of a few elite corporate CEOs and reject the Rogers-Shaw merger.

The many concerns about the lack of competition, increased costs, diminished services and lost jobs have already been well canvassed through the Canadian Commissioner of Competition and the Competition Tribunal, the media, and likely in your caucus, cabinet and office. While assurances have been made by Shaw, Rogers, and Quebecor to assuage these concerns, without concrete price, service and employment requirements laid out and enforced by your government, these assurances ring hollow.

It's no surprise that poll after poll shows this merger to be deeply unpopular with Canadians. Our members who have experience with these employers and anyone paying attention knows that when a corporation makes promises like "cost-saving efficiencies," they do not mean that they will hire more workers and expand services.

We just came through some difficult bargaining with TELUS. Our union has been clear that we want them to invest more in unionized Canadian jobs, rather than sub-contracting and off-shoring. We know this merger would make the situation worse for Canadian workers and TELUS customers. TELUS has informed us, faced with the possibility of a near monopoly being handed to Rogers, they have begun to implement an "efficiency program" of their own. To start, they have already filed a Notice of Collective Dismissal with Quebec's Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity alerting the Ministry to a significant number of job reductions planned in the province.


United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union
Syndicat international des travailleurs unis de la métallurgie, du papier et de la foresterie, du caoutchouc,
de la fabrication, de l'énergie, des services et industries connexes

It is our sincere hope that the prospect of thousands of jobs being lost at TELUS and Bell in addition to those that will be cut by Rogers and Shaw will give you serious pause. The additional impact of strengthening Quebecor through the growth of Videotron should also not be ignored. Quebecor is not known for its generous treatment of workers. Nor have they shown themselves to be any more interested in using their spectrum licences to improve services to rural Canadians than Rogers has.

Throughout the consideration of this damaging takeover, we've seen the Competition Tribunal and courts constrained by an ineffective Competition Act. You are not. Crucially, you also have the ability to strengthen the act to ensure that all future attempts do, in fact, put the needs of Canadians ahead of the financial interests of corporate CEOs.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue. If there is anything further that either I or my team can do to help you make the right decision, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Marty Warren
National Director
United Steelworkers

MW/mk

cc: Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Official Opposition
Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois
Jagmeet Singh, Leader of Canada's New Democrats

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