# Framing

#### My value is morality, as indicated by the word ought in the resolution

#### My value criterion is maximizing expected well-being

#### Prefer this value criterion to all others

#### 1 – Tradeoffs are inevitable, so governments need to make policies that best benefit the people

**Woller 97**  [Gary Woller, BYU Prof., “An Overview by Gary Woller”, A Forum on the Role of Environmental Ethics, June 1997, pg. 10]

Moreover, virtually all public policies entail some redistribution of economic or political resources, such that one group's gains must come at another group's expense. Consequently, public policies in a democracy must be justified to the public, and especially to those who pay the costs of those policies. Such justification cannot simply be assumed a priori by invoking some higher-order moral principle. Appeals to a priori moral principles, such as environmental preservation, also often fail to acknowledge that public policies inevitably entail trade-offs among competing values. Thus since policymakers cannot justify inherent value conflicts to the public in any philosophical sense, and since public policies inherently imply winners and losers, the policymakers' duty to the public interest requires them to demonstrate that the redistributive effects and value trade-offs implied by their policies are somehow to the overall advantage of society. At the same time, deontologically based ethical systems have severe practical limitations as a basis for public policy. At best, a priori moral principles provide only general guidance to ethical dilemmas in public affairs and do not themselves suggest appropriate public policies, and at worst, they create a regimen of regulatory unreasonableness while failing to adequately address the problem or actually making it worse.

#### 2 - Only acting through maximizing well-being can we best account for the value of human life

Cummiskey 90

[Cummiskey, David. Associate professor of philosophy at the University of Chicago. “Kantian Consequentiaism.” Ethics 100 (April 1990), University of Chicago. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2381810>]

We must not obscure the issue by characterizing this type of case as the sacrifice of individuals for some abstract “social entity.” It is not a question of some persons having to bear the cost for some elusive “overall social good.” Instead, the question is whether some persons must bear the inescapable cost for the sake of other persons. Robert Nozick, for example, argues that “to use a person in this way does not sufficiently respect and take account of the fact that he is a separate person, that his is the only life he has.” But why is this not equally true of all those whom we do not save through our failure to act? By emphasizing solely the one who must bear the cost if we act, we fail to sufficiently respect and take account of the many other separate persons, each with only one life, who will bear the cost of our inaction. In such a situation, what would a conscientious Kantian agent, an agent motivated by the unconditional value of rational beings, choose? A morally good agent recognizes that the basis of all particular duties is the principle that “rational nature exists as an end in itself”. Rational nature as such is the supreme objective end of all conduct. If one truly believes that all rational beings have an equal value, then the rational solution to such a dilemma involves maximally promoting the lives and liberties of as many rational beings as possible. In order to avoid this conclusion, the non-consequentialist Kantian needs to justify agent-centered constraints. As we saw in chapter 1, however, even most Kantian deontologists recognize that agent-centered constraints require a non- value-based rationale. But we have seen that Kant’s normative theory is based on an unconditionally valuable end. How can a concern for the value of rational beings lead to a refusal to sacrifice rational beings even when this would prevent other more extensive losses of rational beings? If the moral law is based on the value of rational beings and their ends, then what is the rationale for prohibiting a moral agent from maximally promoting these two tiers of value? If I sacrifice some for the sake of others, I do not use them arbitrarily, and I do not deny the unconditional value of rational beings. Persons may have “dignity, that is, an unconditional and incomparable worth” that transcends any market value, but persons also have a fundamental equality that dictates that some must sometimes give way for the sake of others. The concept of the end-in-itself does not support the view that we may never force another to bear some cost in order to benefit others.

Thus, I negate.

# Medical Workers DA

**Doctors’ and nurses’ strikes lead to fewer hospital admission and many preventable deaths.**

**Irimu et al. 18** [Grace Irimu, senior lecturer in child health and pediatrics at the University of Nairobi. Morris Ogero, George Mbevi, Celia Kariuki, David Gathara, Samuel Akech, Edwine Barasa, Benjamin Tsofa, Mike English. “Tackling health professionals’ strikes: an essential part of health system strengthening in Kenya”. 11-28-2018. BMJ Global Health. https://gh.bmj.com/content/3/6/e001136. Accessed 11-17-2021]

Data from 13 county public hospitals that provide first-referral care illustrate the effects of the 2017 strikes. These hospitals are part of the Clinical Information Network (CIN) since 2013/2014 whose aim is to improve quality and utilisation of hospital data. While they are not a nationally representative sample of hospitals, we believe their data reasonably mirror the pattern of hospital admissions in other county hospitals (they are described in more detail elsewhere).[6](https://gh.bmj.com/content/3/6/e001136#ref-6) Data on paediatric admissions were taken from the ongoing CIN surveillance platform and for other wards were obtained from the hospitals’ health-records departments.

We present a 2-year data pooled from all hospitals on the number of admissions per month in the four major inpatient wards from January 2016 to December 2017. We use the data from January 2014 to December 2015 for the paediatrics and maternity wards to demonstrate annual patterns of admissions and any seasonality that might exist.

During both the doctors’ and nurses’ 2017 strikes, there were marked reductions in admissions in all the four major disciplines—obstetrics, paediatrics, surgical and adult medicine ([figure 1](https://gh.bmj.com/content/3/6/e001136#F1)). Exploration of hospital-specific data (available on request) demonstrates varied responses to the strikes across hospitals and wards. There was limited continuing admissions in different hospitals in specific wards (maternity (n=1/13), adult medical (n=1/13) and surgical (n=1/13)); resumption of services before the strikes officially ended (in two maternity wards and across all wards in two hospitals) and use of locum nurses to keep all the wards open (one hospital). During the entire 250 days of the strike, four hospitals had almost no admissions at all.

Considering the admissions in the prestrike year (December 2015 to November 2016), we speculate that a total of 183 170 individuals (including that each maternity admission produced one new-born) did not receive admission care in these 13 hospitals during strike year (December 2016 to November 2017). This included 59 965 maternity patients (and the same number of newborns), 24 762 medical patients, 20 309 paediatrics and 18 169 surgical patients. There are 65 similar level referral hospitals in Kenya (Kenya Master Facility List), and we tracked data from 13 of these that were part of CIN, suggesting that preventable deaths likely occurred on a massive scale. Private and faith-based hospitals reported increased admissions and mortality over this period.[7](https://gh.bmj.com/content/3/6/e001136#ref-7) Typically, county hospitals see many more outpatients than inpatients and so the total number of lost episodes of care in the public sector would be considerably higher.

**Essential workers’ strikes cause deaths.**

**Graham 63** [James Graham, Fordham University. “A Reconsideration of the Right to Strike.” Spring 1963. The Catholic Lawyer, Volume 9, Number 2. <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1434&context=tcl>. Accessed 11-17-2021]

In September 1962, a strike by the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) blacked out New York City's first educational television station on its opening night. Whatever the merits of the dispute, AFTRA's conduct in this case constituted at best a brutal and unnecessary demonstration of economic strength which certainly made no friends for organized labor. It is only fair to add, however, that a double standard seems to prevail on the question of strikes. Last summer, we witnessed instances of direct action by the medical profession which, in the opinion of this writer, were more outrageous than anything ever contemplated by organized labor. Some doctors in New Jersey threatened to strike against the medicare plan of the Kennedy administration; most of the doctors in the Saskatchewan Province of Canada did in fact strike, obviously for other reasons. Yet criticism of either group in responsible publications, when compared with the usual reactions to a strike of milk deliverers, for example, was surprisingly mild. Even adverse criticism of the conduct of the Canadian doctors was often tempered with the curious assurance to readers that "emergency" care was being provided during the strike. Statistics may never be made available but the fallacy here becomes evident when we consider the not-so-remote possibility that a citizen or citizens of Saskatchewan might have died from cancer discovered two weeks too late because at the time of the first complaint, the patient's doctor was exercising his common-law right to strike. Though not an "emergency" case ab initio, the hypothetical patient died all the same.

**Utilitarianism always condemns medical workers’ strikes.**

**Munyaradzi 10** [Mawere Munyaradzi. Professor Extraordinarius of Interdisciplinary Research at the University of South Africa. “Are physicians’ strikes ever morally justifiable? A call for a return to tradition”. 2010. PubMed Central (PMC). https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3063499/. Accessed 11-17-2021]

Utilitarianism is a doctrine which states that the rightness or wrongness of an action is determined by the goodness or badness of its consequences [[19](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3063499/#R19)]. This means that utilitarianism is a consequentialist theory in so far as it calls for the assessment of actions in terms of their ends and consequences, their contribution to happiness and prevention of suffering. In fact, according to utilitarianism, an action is good or right when it achieves the greatest happiness for the greatest number, otherwise it is bad. Kantian ethics, based on the concept of duty, holds that an action is good if it is based on good intention. For utilitarians, an action in itself has no moral worth and takes moral value only when it is considered in conjunction with its effects. To the contrary, Kantians argue that what makes an action right is not its consequence(s) but the fact that it conforms to the moral law [[20](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3063499/#R20)]. Thus unlike deontological theories which look at the action itself, utilitarianism assess the rightness or wrongness of an individual or group’s action directly by its consequences and nothing else. De George offers some clarification of consequentialist and deontological ethics:

**“**One approach argues on the basis of consequences (consequentialist); it states that whether an action is right or wrong depends on the consequences of that action. The second basic approach is called the deontological approach. It states that duty is the basic moral category, and that duty is independent of consequences. An action is right if it has certain characteristics or is of a certain kind, and wrong if it has other characteristics or is of a certain kind”**[**[**21**](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3063499/#R21)**].**

Utilitarianism and Kantian ethics are examples of consequentialist and deontological ethics, respectively. For Kant (the representative of Kantian ethics) the moral law or the highest principle of morality is based on human reason.

This work does not seek to undertake a comprehensive discussion of consequentialist and deontological ethics, but to demonstrate the usefulness and plausibility of utilitarianism in criticizing physicians strike. However, any ethical theory that begins from some external demands and consequences faces the challenge of legitimacy. The challenge is that what ought to be done remains foreign to who ought to do it. Such an approach to ethics largely ignores the personality of the individual that guarantees the actions. Transposing the utilitarianism to physicians’ strike, it is undoubtedly true that strike by physicians result in unbearable suffering of not only the patients in hospitals, but also of the public in general and the nation at large. During physicians’ strike, unnecessary and premature deaths-deaths that could have been prevented are inevitable. According to IRINnews [[22](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3063499/#R22)], during a 2008 strike by Zimbabwean physicians, Jestina Moyo of Bulawayo, expressed disappointment on arriving at Mpilo central hospital in Bulawayo, with her seriously ill son only to be told that doctors were on strike. She laments:

**“**This is painful to watch my son waste away like this. The hospital says the doctors are on strike, demanding high salaries, and there is nothing I can do for my son, as I have no money to take him to a private doctor. As it is, my son will die a painful death unless I find money to take him to a private doctor”**.**

According to the same source, since the strike started several death were registered which doctors could have dealt with if they were not on strike. The same consequences have been felt in other countries the world-over. In Malawi, for example, Kelita Kamoto, director of the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Malawi’s largest city Blantyre reported that between 15 and 20 deaths are recorded daily......deaths were registered as the strike entered its third week [[23](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3063499/#R23)]. In another report by Ecumenical News International (ENI), Nigeria:

**“**Constant strikes by Nigerian doctors this year are said to have claimed the lives of more than 20000 patients and have placed a massive burden on Christian hospitals across the country which have been overwhelmed with patients. And other 6000 accident victims died from lack of medical attention as a result of the doctors’ strike”**[**[**24**](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3063499/#R24)**].**

In Zambia, The Post Newspaper reported that:

**“**Last month, nurses and doctors went on a month-long strike, forcing one Zambian mother to give birth on the sidewalk outside the University Teaching Hospital, the country’s biggest. Her traumatized family took a picture of the ill-fated childbirth, showing the infant’s legs stretching out of the mother, struggling for life -the hospital and potential medical help tantalizingly nearby but completely out of reach. She gave birth without aid from doctors and the newborn died”**[**[**25**](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3063499/#R25)**].**

Apart from Zimbabwe, Malawi, Nigeria and Zambia, in the past 20 years there has been strikes by medical doctors in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Korea, Malta, New Zealand, Peru, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Romania, USA and UK to name but a few. Many of these strikes have caused lasting damage from which health systems have struggled to get over; have been very costly (both in the short and long term); and have not achieved what the management appear to have wanted.

It can also be argued on the basis of utilitarianism that physicians strike like that of the army, police and prison officers has far reaching consequences to the country in question; may result in violation of human rights and looting of public ‘goods’. One can imagine what may happen if the army, police officers and the prison officers go on strike? If prison officers, for example, go on strike criminals, some with recorded history of mass killing will be free and obviously disturb the harmony of the innocent people. I believe physicians strike causes the same blow to the country involved. It is therefore the contention of this work that just like soldiers, prison officers and police officers who in many countries are not allowed to go on strike, physicians should likewise take no part in any form of strike action.

In view of cases of unnecessary deaths and sufferings of both the patients and the public spelled out in this work, it is undeniable on the basis of utilitarianism that physicians strike has far reaching consequences not only to the patients, but to the public and the national government in question (to the majority). It has been exhibited that the happiness that physician strike brings is clearly overwhelmed by the suffering and sadness it causes to the majority (the patients, public and the government in question). From this understanding the paper contends that physicians strike can never be morally justifiable. Strike fails to achieve a greater happiness to the greatest number of people affected by it.

# Public Sector DA

**Strikes at ports can cost billions of dollars to the economy, affect thousands of jobs, and potentially expand to 100+ metros in the country.**

**Tomer & Kane, ‘15** [Adie Tomer is a Senior Fellow of the Metropolitan Policy Program, Joseph W. Kane is a Fellow of the Metropolitan Policy Program, Published: 1/20/15, “How the West Coast Port Strike is Hurting Metro Trade ” Brookings, https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2015/01/20/how-the-west-coast-port-strike-is-hurting-metro-trade/ ] /Triumph Debate

**As a** [**contract dispute**](http://www.cnbc.com/id/102334727) **between dockworkers and shipping companies at 29 West Coast ports continues—and a** [**backlog of cargo**](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2015-01-13/west-coast-shippers-say-port-backups-untenable-amid-talks.html) **piles up—economic costs are mounting across the country. From terminal facilities in Long Beach and Los Angeles to Oakland and Seattle, the six-month-long negotiations between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) have not only** [**delayed thousands of trucks**](http://www.sfgate.com/business/bottomline/article/Port-of-Oakland-delays-Absolute-madness-5969642.php) **and** [**prompted railroads to reroute shipments**](http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/b4f216ea-9680-11e4-a40b-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3P06mntKX)**, but they have also stalled output for many** [**retailers**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/12/usa-ports-westcoast-idUSL1N0TW03R20141212) **and** [**manufacturers**](http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2015/01/02/manufacturers-lament-west-coast-port-issues/)**.** In the short term, congestion at these ports remains a thorny issue. **A potential** [**five-day work stoppage**](https://nrf.com/media/press-releases/negotiating-deadline-looms-west-coast-ports-economic-trouble-horizon) **could reduce U.S. GDP by almost $2 billion a day and disrupt up to 73,000 jobs.** However, the long-lasting effects may prove even more damaging to metropolitan areas across the country, especially as they look to boost trade in years to come. **After all, most of the** [**$3 trillion**](https://www.brookings.edu/research/reports2/2014/11/06-mapping-freight-tomer-kane) **of international goods traded annually are concentrated in the country’s 100 largest metro areas, including many of the highly valuable electronics, precision instruments, and other** [**advanced industrial products**](https://www.brookings.edu/about/programs/metro/advanced-industries) **used by innovative firms.** Exports and imports from East Asia are particularly important in this respect, including the exchange of $2.8 billion in electronics between Phoenix and China, $647 million in machinery between San Jose and South Korea, and $136 million in chemicals/plastics between San Diego and Japan. The fact that these large metro areas also contain most of the country’s critical port facilities further emphasizes the need to resolve the West Coast strike sooner rather than later. As our [Metro Freight series](https://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2013/10/22-metro-freight-tomer-kane-puentes) will highlight in an upcoming release, only handful of markets house the essential seaports, airports and land border crossings that funnel the vast majority of international trade. Significantly, three metro areas—Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle—are mired at the center of the ongoing strike and rank among the country’s 10 biggest port complexes, transporting over one-third ($472 billion) of U.S. waterborne exports and imports . **While the seaports in each of these metro areas pump** [**billions of dollars**](http://www.portoflosangeles.org/finance/economic_impact.asp) **into their regional economies and support** [**thousands of direct infrastructure jobs**](https://www.brookings.edu/research/interactives/2014/infrastructure-jobs) **with competitive wages, their importance stretches far beyond local—or even state—boundaries. For example, among all the global goods passing through seaports in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle, $15.7 billion of these products are sourced in Houston, $14.8 billion in New York, and $13.4 billion in Chicago. Even Detroit is responsible for transporting over $8.4 billion through seaports in these three metros.** In this way, resolving the West Coast port strike extends far beyond the ILWU, PMA and their various constituencies. Metro areas throughout the country have a lot at stake as well, eager to see the standoff end and to continue trading the goods that power their economies.

**Strikes have prevented medicines from entering Puerto Rico, proving that there are risks to citizens in countries when strikes are allowed by the transportation industry.**

**Coto, ‘21** [Dánica Coto is a reporter with AP News, Published: 8/4/21, “Puerto Rico dock workers to end strike as goods accumulate ” AP News, <https://apnews.com/article/business-health-caribbean-coronavirus-pandemic-puerto-rico-48e1e28b79a413239f748a8448a5a6d2> ] /Triumph Debate

**Dock workers who launched a strike that prevented thousands of shipping containers with items including food and medicine from reaching Puerto Rico in recent weeks have reached a tentative agreement with their employer, officials said Wednesday. Many in the U.S. territory were relieved at the announcement, given the island’s huge dependence on imports**. However, concerns remain since the deal between Puerto Rico’s Union of Dock Workers and stowage company Luis Ayala Colón Sucres, Inc. is in place for only 45 days. **The strike had prevented some 4,500 shipping containers and 13 boats from reaching Puerto Rico and another 5,000 containers from leaving the island. It also prompted the U.S. territory’s government to file a lawsuit on Monday against union workers and the company known as LAC, which handles 80% of all international cargo entering the Port of San Juan.** “The situation has reached a breaking point,” Puerto Rico’s Ports Authority said in the lawsuit. It is seeking a permanent injunction ordering that those sued meet their responsibilities, noting that it has been unable to collect more than $400,000 in fees and tariffs. Noelia García, the government’s chief of staff, said the lawsuit will be withdrawn only when the deal between dock workers and the stowage company is final. She also hinted that government officials might look into contracting other companies to avoid a repeat. “Diversity is healthy,” she said. “We’re going to take proactive measures to ensure this won’t happen again.” García declined to provide more details. Hernán Ayala, vice president of the stowage company, said there are no plans to prioritize items. “We’ll empty the ships as they arrive,” he said. “This will be done as quickly as possible.” **The workers were striking in part because they said the company had given workshop tasks to managers. While the strike did not cause severe shortages of life-saving items, the Association of Hospitals of Puerto Rico issued a statement Tuesday warning that supplies of certain medical equipment would run out in two to six weeks as the island faces a spike in COVID-19 cases it blames on the delta variant.**

**Previous port strikes have resulted in backlogs that took months. Another such strike would not only delay needed medicines, but result in an even stronger impact on the economy in addition to the lack of medical treatment.**

**Lavenduski, ‘21** [Sara Lavenduski is an executive editor for Advertising Speciality Institute, Published: 3/11/21, “Workers could strike at the port of montreal ” Advertising Speciality Institute, https://www.asicentral.com/news/newsletters/promogram/march-2021/workers-could-strike-at-the-port-of-montreal/ ] /Triumph Debate

**A possible union strike at the busy Port of Montreal would affect supply chains in Canada, which could have ripple effects for the promo industry there that’s already been beleaguered with COVID-caused delays this year. The port, located on the St. Lawrence River in Montreal, is Eastern Canada’s largest**. But in recent weeks, talks between the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE, Local 375), which represents longshoremen at the port, and the Maritime Employers Association (MEA), representing shipowners and operators, have been deadlocked. **The two parties’ seven-month truce ends March 21. If an agreement is not reached before that date, the longshoremen could strike. The port handled 35 million metric tons of goods last year alone. The Montreal Port Authority added that the port is indispensable for the movement of imports into Canada, including** [**critical medical supplies**](https://www.port-montreal.com/en/the-port-of-montreal/news/news/press-release/major-impacts) **used to treat COVID-19. MedTech Canada, a national association that represents the medical technology industry, said dialysis solution would also be stuck at port if a strike were to happen, which would put dialysis centers across the country at risk of not having crucial supplies for treating patients**. Supply Chain Under Pressure Already, shipping companies are rerouting cargo to Halifax and Vancouver. While U.S. ports could be another alternative, that’s proved difficult during the pandemic, Karl-Heinz Legler, general manager of Rutherford Global Logistics, told The Loadstar, a news outlet for the supply chain industry. **Plus, the rail cars required to then carry cargo from alternative ports to their destinations across Canada aren’t always immediately available, he added.** CN Rail has already announced they won’t be loading Montreal-bound cargo from ships diverted to Halifax. “The Government is keenly aware of the central role that the Port of Montreal plays in movement of goods across Canada, particularly in Quebec and Ontario,” said Minister of Labour Filomena Tassi, in an [official statement](https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/statement-by-minister-of-labour-filomena-tassi.html). “**Reaching an agreement at the bargaining table is in the best interest of workers, unions, employers and all Canadians. We strongly encourage both parties to immediately do the hard work necessary to reach an agreement. The Government of Canada will continue to be there throughout the negotiations to support their efforts.” According to the Globe & Mail, more than 15 business groups, including the Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers’ Association and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association, sent a letter on March 10 to Minister Tassi and Omar Alghabra, federal Minister of Transport, to insist that the government “use all tools at its disposal” to make sure an agreement is reached. “They have to look at ways of ensuring that the parties are brought together and that a disruption is avoided**,” said Canadian Chamber of Commerce President Perrin Beatty, a signee of the letter. “The cost to the economy at this point when we are still being so badly affected by COVID would simply be too great.” Meanwhile, Canadian agricultural organizations, like the Canadian Special Crops Association, Grain Farmers of Ontario, Prairie Oat Growers Association and others, have launched a #StoptheStrike campaign on social media and [website](https://stopthestrike.ca/) to urge Ottawa to help mediate talks. **There’s been ongoing tension between the CUPE and MEA, mainly over working hours. Their previous agreement expired on Dec. 31, 2018. Last summer, a work stoppage and revolving strikes for almost 20 days resulted in container ships being diverted to already-congested ports and cost wholesalers $600 million, said the government, and it took more than three months to take care of the backlog**. Ministers from Ontario and Quebec said at the time that 19,000 jobs depend on the port being open for operation. Ripple Effects Across North America **While products like oil, fertilizers and iron ore make up the majority of arriving goods at the port, companies in Canada rely on it for delivery of essential products like medical supplies, food and textiles as well.** The Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA) is concerned about the impact a strike would have on the entire Canadian economy. “We have still not fully recovered from the strike in the port last August,” CIFFA Executive Director Bruce Rodgers told The Loadstar. “**Another interruption will really stick a knife in the Canadian economy. … If the strike goes ahead, we’ll see delays and lost business at a very significant level.”** Canadian promo firms that spoke with ASI Media this week haven’t yet felt the immediate impact of a looming strike. Christine Courtemanche, vice president of Lineaire Infographie Inc. (asi/253727) in Laval, QC, said her orders are mostly shipped by air. Rob Spector, president of Top 40 supplier Spector & Co. (asi/88660) in Saint-Laurent, QC, said their goods come in through Vancouver, Canada’s largest port. But that location too has been experiencing congestion for months. **As of the week of March 8, 15 ships were anchored offshore waiting for open berths, according to shipping news outlet Splash247. If a prolonged strike does occur, the promo industry could experience increased supply chain stress just as** [**reopenings begin across the country**](https://www.asicentral.com/news/newsletters/promogram/february-2021/canadian-provinces-begin-gradual-reopening/) **and businesses try to recover from the pandemic. “All our containers have already arrived for this spring/summer season,”** said Ron De Moor, president of DML Creation (asi/48031) in St. Jerome, QC. “We don’t see this strike affecting us at this time, unless it’s not resolved quickly.” Any added delays at the Port of Montreal could exacerbate what’s been a frustrating year of [supply chain snags](https://www.asicentral.com/news/newsletters/promogram/february-2021/promo-continues-to-grapple-with-rising-prices-inventory-issues/) for the industry. **Ongoing increases in shipping costs and raw material prices, including fuel and goods, along with a lack of available shipping containers, prolonged dwell times (time that a container ship spends at port) and personnel shortages because of COVID, have created a perfect storm of concerns for promo companies importing products from overseas.**