

COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS' ORGANIZATIONS OF BC. (COSCO)
16646 – 84 A. AVENUE, SURREY, BC. V4N 4Z4

**Submissions to Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review by the Council
of Senior Citizens' Organizations of British Columbia (COSCO)**

The Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of British Columbia (COSCO) welcomes this opportunity to make a submission to the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review (CPCSR). COSCO is a Seniors Federation of seventy five affiliated organizations with a total membership of 75,000 seniors all over British Columbia .We are writing because we are very concerned about the future of universal, public postal service in this country.

As users of the mail, we are concerned by the kind of changes being considered by the CPCSR, such as deregulation of our public post office. COSCO members rely on the mail to pay our bills and to communicate with family and outside agencies. We are not versed on electronic Communication, therefore rely solely on the Postal Service.

Overall, full-scale postal deregulation has not worked well. We are very concerned that deregulation would negatively affect our members.

- An independent review of the United Kingdom's deregulated postal sector found that "there have been no significant benefits from liberalization for domestic consumers.
- There is no good reason to change the mechanism that funds universal postal service -- the exclusive privilege. We currently have one of the lowest standard postage rates in the industrial world. Our postal services are universal and affordable
- Deregulation elsewhere has not proven to be a good thing for the public. People who use deregulated post offices tend to pay a higher postage rate than we do. The standard postage rate in Sweden has increased by 90% since its post office was deregulated in 1993 while the Canadian rate has increased by only 21% during the same period (1993 to 2005).
- Our post office is not broken. It does not need to be fixed, only improved.

COSCO would like to see the re-establishment of home delivery to all home costumers. This not only protects us seniors from adverse weather conditions but also allows the mail men to alert people to some possible emergency in the house hold. Members of COSCO are also members of the public with a real stake in our public post office. We are concerned, from this perspective, that the government is not holding public hearings as part of its review of Canada Post. Any review of our public post office should include public hearings. The government should not make any decisions about our public post office until it has properly consulted with the public. The government should also extend the deadline for submissions.

Thank you for considering our submission


Arthur A. Kube, President