

I am writing to you in regards to the Canada Post Strategic Review - I write on behalf of our 300 members but also write as someone from a small province with a small population who depends on rural mail delivery and who believes in strong national institutions to bring all Canadians together.

Canada Post needs to maintain a strong presence and offer the same service to all of its customers across Canada, recent decisions re other communications companies and transportation networks have led to "cherry picking" more profitable sectors by certain players at the expense of everyone receiving the same comparable and cost effective level of service, this should not happen in the postal realm. All Canadian deserve and expect accessible and affordable access to a national mail service and I remain concerned that for profit entry into certain sectors will restrict the ability of Canada Post to assist rural and northern customers in the manner in which they expect. The exclusive privilege to deliver letters is balanced by the obligation to service all communities. Post offices, employees of Canada Post including rural carriers are a strong and active force in ensuring that citizens across Canada deserve the same level of service and contribute to economic development in those communities. The rural carrier was an occupation carried out by close neighbours who lived in and contribute to my community growing up in rural P.E.I. One carrier also promotes the most environmentally efficient and fair means of delivery without duplicating effort. When rural carriers no longer delivered local newspapers and fliers it has meant duplication of effort and expenditure of natural resources. Postage rates should be set so that costs of operation are covered and any surplus be reinvested in expanding services to the public. Canada Post should maintain its status as a Crown Corporation owned by the people of Canada and accountable to Parliament. It has been part of the fabric of our country since 1867 and should be maintained in a public and accountable fashion. Canada Post has been a model of public delivery and accountability by keeping costs lower than inflation while returning dividends and taxes to our government. Public and small businesses benefit from the current model and maybe disadvantaged by other models.

The Exclusive privilege maintains uniform and affordable postage rates across the country. Deregulation in other areas has failed rural and remote customers and increased costs on those on fixed incomes like the elderly, we all depend on the mail service maintain it in the most efficient manner for all by maintaining its role as an exclusive privilege rather than allowing profit driven and cherry picking to take over. It provides the best economy of scale.

As an organization that represents workers in a library and at an educational institution, we support the continued services being provided for the blind, government free mail, publications assistance program, the food program and the library book rate -these all contribute to the common good. Rural delivery is crucial to serve all areas of the country including many elderly people who remain in their homes. Door to door delivery should also be maintained and even expanded.

I look forward to hearing more about this review process, Canada Post is a National institution which serves all of us well and should be maintained in the manner it now operates with any surplus generated be returned to the public in greater services. A move away from this model will endanger its ability to serve all of us and undermine it as a national service we all expect from coast to coast to coast.

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