

Local 620  
21 East Miles Street, Suite 102  
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 1J6

Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review  
330 Sparks Street (HCCR)  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0N5

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The Canadian Union of Postal Workers Local 620 welcomes this opportunity to make a submission to the Canada Post Strategic Review.

Universal postal delivery in Canada is an essential service that all Canadians have come to depend on. In many isolated parts of our vast country, this service provides the only link that residents have to the rest of the world. It is because of regulations such as the Canada Post Corporation Act, that postage rates remain fair and affordable for all Canadians regardless of where they live. Because the regulations have ensured Canada Post the exclusive privilege to deliver letter mail, the corporation has remained fiscally viable and thus able to provide this widespread service regardless of the cost or inconvenience in remote and rural areas. With the regulations removed, it will no longer be feasible to continue the current scope of the service. With the regulations removed, competitors will be entering the market with the singular motive of profit to determine what products they will offer and how much they will charge members of the Canadian public and small businesses.

In an age where corporate decisions must be made in consideration of environmental factors, deregulation will invite the use of more delivery vehicles to handle the same amount of mail. It will also destroy the infrastructure that is now in place to facilitate policy and protocols that will help to protect our environment. The current infrastructure also makes possible a highly trained security force whose primary responsibility is the security of the mail. Deregulation would jeopardize the security and privacy of the mail. It is currently a federal offence for anyone to open or tamper with mail without the permission of the recipient or a judicial warrant. With the introduction of competition, it would be virtually impossible for the federal government to ensure that a myriad of delivery companies lived up to legislation requiring security of the mail.

Canada Post currently provides services that are accessible to seniors and people with disabilities. Organizations representing blind people are worried that deregulation will result in service cutbacks. Canada Post provides free mailing of braille documents and sound recordings. The deregulation of Canada Post would most likely result in cutbacks to these types of services, since they are not profitable.

In countries which have deregulated their postal service, such as the UK, New Zealand, Sweden, Finland and Germany, we see post offices closing, services diminished and

higher rates for people and small businesses. It is only common sense that Canada would consider these consequences before going forward with this regressive step in our democratic history.

Canada Post employs 70,000 Canadians in secure employment with fair wages and benefits. Here in Northwestern Ontario where the resource based economy is grinding to a stop and causing widespread unemployment and social distress, the loss of jobs caused by deregulation is particularly threatening.

Postal users want a postal service that addresses their needs, and does not simply respond to the concerns of the 200 major mail users. This is why Canada Post should remain a service for the people and not just for big business.

In Solidarity

Wendy Johnston, President  
Local 620