

To the Strategic Review Panel,

It is incomprehensible that the Government of Canada is conducting a review of a public service, but is not holding public consultations. The Public are the True owners of Canada Post and as such, deserve a proper and fair opportunity to have their voices heard. The panel has been given direction to hear the public's input through written submissions only, yet they are ensuring that the voices of big businesses are heard through meaningful consultations. This sends a clear message that the main focus is on profit and not on service.

A time frame of four months to hear the voices of the public is unrealistic, especially during the summer months. The public deserve more especially since in the last couple of years numerous mail customers, particularly in Rural Communities have had a drastic reduction in their mail service. This was due to the irresponsible manner in which Canada Post handled the health and safety issues of their rural route workers. Canada Post failed in their responsibility to protect the health and safety of these workers up until 2004, and when they finally gained the right to complain and the right to refuse unsafe work, Canada Post took advantage of the situation. Instead of addressing their concerns in a way that would have protected the workers and ensured that the service remained the same, Canada Post took the opportunity to again, find a way to cut service and inevitably, save money. Rural communities are seeing their roadside boxes disappear at an alarming rate, and at Canada Post's pace, these mailboxes will be a thing of the past. As you drive through rural communities today, you see the loss of the boxes and find community mailboxes littered throughout these communities. If this mandate was truly to determine how to make Canada Post more effective and efficient to the public, the voices of rural communities would be given a chance to be heard. They deserve as much respect, if not more than that of the "major stakeholders" who have been given the opportunity to express their concerns.

Rural communities have been victim to service reduction in many aspects; Canada Post has remained a constant in many areas, providing services to rural citizens. Can the Government of Canada continue on their way of treating rural citizens as second class? This review needs to look at how to take the millions of dollars Canada Post makes in profit and put it back into the service to increase and enhance the service, in particular in Rural Communities.

In regards to the idea of deregulation who will suffer? Again, rural citizens! If Canada Post business is opened up for competition and the exclusive privilege removed, rural mail will be left as the primary source of income for Canada Post. The exclusive privilege is the mechanism that creates the profits for Canada Post which ensures basic postal service for all citizens. Competitors will not compete for rural mail delivery but they will certainly compete for the profitable business of urban mail. Once it is removed and Canada Post profits decreased, Canada Post will no longer be capable of ensuring mail service to each and every one of us.

If it is the goal of the panel and the Government of Canada to completely destroy rural mail delivery, then deregulation will be the proverbial final nail in the coffin.

In order for this panel to do a truly fair and honest review of Canada Post then public consultations are required. To call it a review otherwise, is dishonest and unfair to the true owners of the post office, the public.

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