

Dear Commissioners

I am writing to request that you NOT approve removal of the Canada Post monopoly on the delivery of ordinary (stamped) mail. I am aware that there are “efficiency” arguments for privatising this service – or opening the mails up to competition. These arguments are misguided for several reasons:

First, the mail is more than a simple commodity. This service is an essential element enabling all Canadians to communicate with each other and people abroad. If its delivery is left to the “market” alone, we can guarantee substantial reductions in access (whether in terms of frequency of service, or cost, or both) to many users, especially those with low incomes or in remoter areas. This would be unacceptable.

Second, correcting the holes in service of a privatized/competitive system through some combination of regulation (establishing rules, and mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing performance) and subsidies is unlikely to prove effective for several reasons: the ability of economic actors to gain control of regulatory processes; the general unwillingness of governments to devote the resources needed to effective regulation; the even greater unwillingness to subsidise services. Even worse, the current fashion of leaving regulation up to firms themselves has minimal effects on mitigating the adverse effects of market “competition.”

Please reject any privatisation of the mails and leave this service in the hands of a public monopoly. (However hard it may be to ensure this public monopoly operates efficient services, it will be even harder to secure the same – let alone better – results from private firms.)

Yours sincerely

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