

The Council of Canadians is making this submission to the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review to voice our strong support for an ongoing universal, public postal service in Canada. It is our firm belief that the deregulation of our public post office would be adverse to the public interest.

As regular users of the mail (through fundraising letters, mailings of our newsletter Canadian Perspectives, and regular communication with our members), we are concerned that deregulation could lead to both a reduction in the rural delivery of mail and an increase in postage costs. Canada currently has one of the lowest standard postage rates in the industrial world, and our postal services are universal and affordable. This is something to celebrate, not deregulate and dismantle.

In June 2007, a tribunal rejected a NAFTA Chapter 11 complaint by the United Parcel Service claiming that its investments were being restricted by Canada's publicly funded network of mailboxes and post offices because this network allegedly provided Canada Post with an unfair advantage. We would be very concerned if this strategic review were in some way related to pressure from the United States for postal deregulation in Canada.

Deregulation could also lead to privacy issues, including the fact that many competitors would be American-based companies that are subject to the terms of the USA Patriot Act. Under the terms of this Act, American subsidiaries delivering mail in Canada can be required to provide the American government with any records they have concerning the sending or receipt of mail.

We are also very concerned that the review of our public post office does not include public hearings. We believe that the government should not make any decisions about our public post office until it has properly consulted with the public. Additionally, we believe that the government should also extend the deadline for the submissions.

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