

Submission to the Canada Post Strategic Review

Dear Panel Members,

As an Executive of the Scarborough Local, I am writing to you, on behalf of our membership, to express our concerns about the current Review.

We represent approximately 2000 members in Scarborough, each one of them dedicated and hard working, providing postal service, sortation and delivery, to Scarborough and the eastern portion of the GTA 5 days a week through all kinds of weather. These 2000 members of Scarborough Local are also customers of Canada Post. We send and receive mail, from family and friends, not just in Canada but also all over the world. We belong to organizations that use the postal service to stay in touch. We receive magazines, bills, parcels and unaddressed admail. In short we are ordinary Canadians, who are also shareholders in Canada Post and we are part of the great majority of Canadians that have been denied a voice in the future of our public postal service by not having public hearings and not allowing our voices to be heard.

As a long time employee of Canada Post with almost 34 years service as a letter carrier, I've seen the changes. We have been moving away from being a service to a profit driven business. Services we provided for free to our customers such as "holds" or redirection of mail now cost money. We seem to nickel and dime our core customers, the average Canadians or small businesses. More and more of the money that we "make" is given back to the government as a "dividend" rather than being re-invested in providing increased service to Canadians.

The 1981 Canada Post Corporation Act has a provision to ensure that "postage rates shall be fair, reasonable and sufficient to defray the costs incurred by the Corporation in the conduct of its operations under this Act". It was never intended to be an additional source of income, "a cash cow", for the federal government. This money must be reinvested in the post office to improve and grow our service.

Over the last few years we've heard more talk about deregulation. It has become obvious that this has not been successful in other countries. Postage rates have increased, mail security is compromised, service has suffered and universal service is at risk.

Big multi-nationals come in and skim off the cream by delivering to large urban areas and leave the rest of the country to the national post office, which is unable to provide proper service because of the income lost to the multi-nationals.

What funds the universal service, that our post office provides, is our exclusive privilege. This allows us to provide affordable and universal service to all corners of Canada, the second largest country in the world. We have the second lowest postal rates in the industrialized world.

By deregulating, we jeopardize, not only this universal service but also the jobs of over 50,000 decent, hard-working Canadians.

This Review has an opportunity to send a message to the government and the leadership of Canada Post that we are, and will continue to be, a service and that we have a commitment to all Canadians that we will continue to provide and improve postal service to all parts of this great country and that all Canadians have equal access to our service from the smallest rural post office to our major centers.

Sincerely,

George X Tomaszewski
1st Vice President
Scarborough Local

Submitted by mail, fax and email