



COMPRISING - THE FORMER TOWNSHIPS OF FRANKLIN, MCLEAN, RIDOUT, SINCLAIR AND FINLAYSON.

# *Township of Lake of Bays*

RR#1, 1012 DWIGHT BEACH RD., DWIGHT  
MUSKOKA, ONTARIO P0A 1H0

PHONE: (705) 635-2272  
FAX: (705) 635-2132

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008

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

The Township of Lake of Bays welcomes this opportunity to make a submission to the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review (CPCSR).

The Township of Lake of Bays is located in the northeast corner of the District of Muskoka, 193 kilometres from Toronto. With a permanent population of 3,000 and seasonal population of 18,000, it encompasses three small communities; Baysville, Dorset and Dwight as well as waterfront and rural areas that provide various types of settlement and commercial opportunities.

We are writing because we are very concerned about the future of universal, public postal services in this country.

As users of the mail, we are concerned by the kind of changes being considered by the CPCSR, such as deregulation of our public post office. The Township of Lake of Bays relies on the mail for Committee and Council agenda distributions, to correspondence with members of the public (often by registered mail), other municipalities, government agencies, businesses, etc...

Overall, full-scale postal deregulation has not worked well. We are very concerned that deregulation would negatively affect our members.


- Postal deregulation in other countries has largely led to fewer jobs, less service and higher postal rates for the public and small businesses.
- An independent review of the United Kingdom's deregulated postal sector found that "there have been no significant benefits from liberalization for smaller businesses and domestic consumers".
- Only a few countries have had any long-term experience with postal deregulation. It would make sense to wait and see what happens in other

countries before making irrevocable changes to our universal, public post office.

- There is no good reason to change the mechanism that funds universal postal service – the exclusive privilege. We currently have one of the lowest standard postage rates in the industrial world. Our postal services are universal and affordable, no small feat in the second largest country in the world.
- Deregulation elsewhere has not proven to be a good thing for the public. People who use deregulated post offices tend to pay a higher postage rate than we do. The standard postage rate in Sweden has increased by 90% since its post office was deregulated in 1993 while the Canadian rate has increased by only 21% during the same period (1993 to 2005).
- The United Kingdom's Royal Mail has faced intense pressure from competitors since it was deregulated in 2006, resulting in falling mail volumes and revenues. Royal Mail says higher prices for stamped letters are inevitable and universal service is at risk.
- Our post office is not broken. It does not need to be fixed, only improved.
- It will be difficult for Canada Post to improve public postal service if the government erodes or eliminates the mechanism that funds this service (i.e. the exclusive privilege).

Members of the Township of Lake of Bays are also members of the public with a real stake in our public post office. We are concerned, from this perspective, that the government is not holding public hearings as part of its review of Canada Post. Any review of our public post office should include public hearings. The government should not make any decisions about our public post office until it has properly consulted with the public. The government should also extend the deadline for submissions.

On behalf of the Township of Lake of Bays, I would like to thank you for considering our submission.



for: Mayor Janet Peake  
Township of Lake of Bays

Enclosed