

Communications Energy and Paperworkers Union

PEI Local 401

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

August 22, 2008

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union (CEP) – Local 401 – wishes to take the opportunity to submit our strong support for Canada Post’s exclusive privilege in handling addressed letters. Along with this, we wish to make it clear that the direction of the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review should be to maintain and expand Canada’s Public Universal Postal Service and not pursue deregulation.

It is fair to say that on this subject, CEP Local 401 has more questions than suggestions. We are curious to know why there are no public hearings for this review? Why is the period for submissions from the public only four months, which includes the summer season? Is the Federal Conservative government hiding something from the public? Why the secrecy?

That being said, perhaps the fundamental questions are these: Why is there a need to consider deregulation of the postal service, which could seriously compromise our current delivery structure? Is Canada Post broken? Does it need to be fixed? Where is the evidence to suggest this? For that matter, why is the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review not concentrating their attention on maintaining, improving, and expanding the system we already have?

Many of our members reside in small rural communities here on Prince Edward Island, and they take this issue very seriously. For some, the mail continues to be the most robust, reliable, and affordable communications service available. Like many other Islanders from all walks of life, they have their doubts that deregulation will lead to a service for all Canadians that is both equal and efficient. They wonder when does the postal service become more about maximizing profits and less about servicing the population?

We are certain that this panel knows that there are few countries who have had any long-term experience with postal deregulation. This would suggest that we as a responsible nation should take our time and understand the consequences first before we embark on changes that could only be categorized as massive and uncertain.

CEP Local 401 urges this panel to make recommendations that rejects deregulation and ensures that we continue to have a universal, public postal service that the citizens of this great country can continue to be proud of.

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