



CUPE Nova Scotia

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Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review
330 Sparks Street (HCCR)
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Dear Sirs:

The Canadian Union of Public Employees in Nova Scotia (CUPE NS) welcomes this opportunity to make a submission to the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review.

CUPE Nova Scotia is a public sector union representing upwards of 16,000 members in the province of Nova Scotia. On a national scale we represent 560,000 members across the Country. We are writing because we are very concerned about the future of universal, public postal service in this country.

Our members are not just union members but are also tax-payers and users of the mail. We are concerned by the kind of changes being considered by the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review, such as deregulation of our public post office. Our union is also a large user of Canada Post and relies on the mail to do our daily business in the country and the province. Overall, full-scale postal deregulation has not worked well. We are very concerned that deregulation would negatively affect our members for a number of reasons:

- 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).

We are imploring you to keep Canada Post as is and not to implement deregulation of this public service. In a country the size of Canada it is very expensive to provide equal services from coast to coast. Canada Posts' exclusive privilege to deliver letters allows it to generate enough revenue to provide service to all Canadians, no matter how remote their location or how small their town.

It is our belief that many of the companies vying to enter into the market of mail delivery in Canada would be American-based. This would leave them subject to the terms of the USA Patriot Act. Under the terms of the 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.

Members of our union 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.

Thank you for considering our submission

Respectfully,



Danny Cavanagh
President
CUPE Nova Scotia.

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c: Paul Moist, Claude Genereux, Stan Marshall, Robert Chisholm, CUPE NS Executive