

August 28, 2008

Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review
Ottawa, Ontario
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Fax: 613-990-9033

Re: Deregulation of Canada Post

I am writing as the coordinator of a national project that supports families who have children with special needs. The project office is situated in a rural area where the three full-time jobs it provides are greatly appreciated. We are able to offer this service from a small rural community because we can rely on the service provided by our local post office.

Connection with our members and staff across the country is conducted primarily by mail. We correspond with over 600 members and over 50 part-time staff across the country. Through the course of a year we post close to 4000 items of which 95 percent would be standard letter mail.

Deregulation of the postal service threatens the viability of this project. Deregulation of services could mean a significant increase in cost for postal service to rural areas or, the service may even be eliminated. Increased costs will mean less dollars going into member's pockets while a cut in service would mean loss of the project to this community.

We are dealing with intimate details of our member's lives, details which need to remain confidential. The current system of mail delivery ensures a level of service and security necessary to ensure member's privacy. A deregulated delivery service would be more difficult to police which would therefore bring the security of the mail into question.

Many of our members are in rural communities. Our ability to communicate with these members in a timely and a cost effective manner could be jeopardized.

All of our members are postal workers. We can see how important it is to have a good paying job with decent benefits when trying to support a child with special needs. Members struggle to provide their children with the resources and support they need to live life to their full potential. Cuts to services and education programs mean that more and more of the support a child with special needs requires has to be paid directly out of the parent's pockets. Deregulation, and the ensuing potential for job losses and wage cuts, would be devastating for these families.

The loss of good quality postal service would tear a huge hole in the fabric of this community. Without it, this project, and many other small businesses, would have to move. Moving one small business, such as this one, out of the community creates a ripple affect impacting on many others – the landlord with an empty space, the single woman providing the cleaning service, the businesses we support, the resource we provide to others in the community, the mother in the home who won't get a visit at lunch.

I ask you to consider the true cost of deregulation, who does it truly benefit? We support 600 members with close to 700 children, as well as the project staff, who stand to loose under a deregulated postal system.

Sincerely,

Gail Holdner
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