

Submission of the NDP Critic for Crown Corporations to the Canada Post Corporation  
Strategic Review  
September 2, 2008

Dear Panel Members,

As the Member of Parliament for Hamilton Centre and the NDP critic for Crown Corporations, I wish to provide a submission for consideration in your review of the Canada Post Corporation. As you may know, the NDP Caucus currently has 30 members, representing Canadians in Eastern, Central, Western and Northern Canada. Our constituents include both urban and rural residents, French, English and Aboriginal Canadians, workers, families, business owners, and those who are unemployed or under-employed.

I believe strongly that your review should be carried out within a framework of basic principles that will best serve Canadians from coast to coast to coast. Those principles are:

- \* Canada Post must remain an entirely public corporation
- \* Mail delivery in Canada should continue to be a regulated activity
- \* Mail delivery must be available to all residents, regardless of whether they live in rural or urban settings

Canada Post must remain an entirely public corporation

Postal mail remains one of the most valued services available to Canadians. While urban dwellers may consider the post to have been largely replaced by new technologies – text messaging, e-mail and fax – the truth is that there must be affordable, simple ways to send and receive original documents across our huge country.

The privatization of part or all of Canada Post would immediately cause a degradation of those services, particularly to those regions of the country that would be less cost effective or profitable. The idea of any kind of “two tier” postal service is repugnant to Canadians and must remain entirely off the table.

Mail delivery in Canada should continue to be a regulated activity

Delivering mail to Canadians is a business that includes some very profitable functions – such as bulk mail – and some less profitable functions – such as remote and rural mail delivery. Through deregulation of these activities, private enterprise would be allowed compete with Canada Post in the most profitable sectors – those that Canada Post uses to help subsidize less profitable functions.

That’s why the federal NDP has so strongly condemned Bill C-14. We know that taking the exclusive right to the international bulk mail business away from Canada Post will result in either higher postal rates for everyone, or the loss of services to some

Canadians – all so a few foreign companies can make a profit from our mail services. Past Strategic Reviews of the Corporation have agreed that deregulation is inappropriate, and I hope that the current panel continues to support that position.

Mail delivery must be available to all residents, regardless of whether they live in rural or urban settings

Mail delivery must remain a universal service for Canadians. While over 70% of Canadians live in small, medium or large urban centres, where mail delivery is a simpler matter, we cannot forget those Canadians who live in remote and rural settings.

Therefore, I support the call for a moratorium on the closing of rural delivery stations and services. Furthermore, I strongly support the concept that elderly and disabled residents should be offered door-to-door letter carrier delivery immediately and further expansion should occur as finances permit.

The only way to continue to offer those services at an affordable cost to Canadians is through the two principles listed above – continue to ensure the public and regulated nature of Canada Post so that it can balance profitable enterprises with necessary, albeit costly, services.

Thank you for accepting this submission. I look forward to hearing more about the work of the Strategic Review panel, and to your conclusions.

Regards,

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