

September 1, 2008

Dr Robert Campbell  
Nicole Beaudoin  
Daniel H. Bader

Re: Canada Post Strategic Review

I have learned of the review that you are conducting of Canada Post. I am not concerned that there is a review of Canada Post and its “exclusive privilege” being undertaken; I am concerned with the manner of the way the review is being conducted, quick and quiet.

The only way to truly know what is needed in Canada is to go out across the country and ask the true shareholders of the Post Office, the taxpayers of Canada. That has been the way reviews have been conducted in the past. The government’s choice of time of the year and style of review is a slap in the face to all Canadians. Having the time for submissions during the summer holiday months shows the government is not involving you or us in good faith. Meeting with big business will not show what is good for the public, only what is good for private interests.

The removal of the exclusive privilege and universal service from Canada Post would mean higher costs to the average Canadian and the federal government. Big business would siphon the money making part of the business (major urban Centers) and have no obligation to provide the same service to the rest of the country. They would decide between abandoning and gouging the rural customers. The government would be obligated to keep some type of service in the rural areas; this would be very expensive without the revenue from the cities, requiring tax dollars and/ or a major increase in rates.

The Post office building is the only federal government presence in many small and medium sized communities across Canada and the Letter Carrier is the same fixture on their route in the bigger centers. Deregulation would change the ability for Canada Post to maintain these offices and routes.

The image and the service that the Post Office provides have been deteriorated by a series of high paid C.E.O.s that have had anything but serving the average Canadian at heart. What is needed are people at the top that support the universal service that the Canada Post Act calls for and standards in the Act for the expansion of these services to more Canadians. These standards should take into account: service, jobs, community and effects on environment.

Making more Canadians drive to get their mail at a group mailbox instead of having it delivered to their door causes the mail to have a larger carbon footprint and ultimately

cost all of us more, in time and money. There should be a population standard set for a town or city to receive door-to-door delivery, like there was when the Post Office was a “Public Service” (2000 points of call).

If big business gets into the mail business, keeping track of mail would be a major problem. With many carriers of the mail, who would be in charge of security? Mail theft and identity theft would surely rise. Profits are the most important thing to private companies; service, wages, security and the environment would all suffer.

Many of the jobs at Canada Post provide a “living wage” for tens of thousands of Canadians. These jobs are mostly unionized and provide the same pay and benefits for the same work across the country. If there were many employers this would be very difficult to achieve.

Some countries around the world have deregulated and none of them are a success for the public or the workers. There has been a reduction in service, job loss, decreased wages and benefits, and increased cost to consumers and government. Canada is much larger than these other countries and has much more remote areas, like the north. This will make keeping service at current levels impossible without the first class exclusive privilege.

Canada Post has been self sufficient, recorded profits, paid taxes and “dividends” to its shareholder, the Government of Canada for many years. Why would the government change from the current service that is operating without requiring any tax money, to something that will need operating capital every year and have less service for Canadians?

I appeal to you to keep the Post Office a public service, with no rollback of services provided now and to expand those services to more Canadians when it meets certain set criteria, such as letter carrier and parcel delivery when a municipality reaches a certain number of points of call.

Sincerely,

Jim Gallant  
NS

(Original sent via Canada Post)