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Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review
330 Sparks St. (HCCR)
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Attention CPCR:

As President of the London and District Labour Council, which represents over 20 unions and 40 locals as an affiliate of the Canadian Labour Congress, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the format of the newly commissioned Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review. Canada Post's status as a publicly funded and managed corporation calls for the transparency and dialogue of fully public hearings. The fact that the CPCR is proceeding behind closed doors lends credence to concerns that its predetermined agenda is to enable deregulation of mail delivery in Canada, and affect a change in focus from social responsibility to profit. Working people of Canada deserve better: a review that affirms Canada Post's delivery of services as a public good above and beyond commerce.

As a public corporation, Canada Post delivers vital services to Canadians from coast to coast to coast in a socially and economically effective manner. The Canada Post Act does not require CPC to make profits or pay dividends, emphasizing instead the importance of service delivery as part of social infrastructure and community service. CPC's federally mandated exclusive privilege to deliver letter mail correspondingly means efficient service delivery, equal access to services, and affordable pricing for all Canadians. Such commitments to public interest-related objectives are the foundation of CPC and its value to Canadians, and should be reflected in both the format and the content of the CPCR.

In fact, any review of CPC's mandate that fails to take its status as a vital public service and the resultant necessity of exclusive privilege as a logical starting point is irredeemably flawed. To dismantle CPC's exclusive privilege is tantamount to deregulation, which would in turn seriously harm the Canadians and their communities CPC is mandated to serve. Specifically, deregulation of letter delivery would lead to fewer jobs and lower wages for CPC employees, and less service and higher rates for Canadians, as it has done in New Zealand and Sweden.

In contrast, CPC's status as a public corporation with exclusive privilege to deliver letter mail is integral to the prosperity of the communities of which Canada is comprised. It allows for CPC's direct answerability to the Canadian people and Parliament; it provides fair wages, safe working conditions and job security for 72 000 employees; it keeps jobs and profits in communities where work is located, rather than following a branch plant model; and most importantly, it enables the continuation of a tradition by which CPC is one of the most effective, efficient and affordable postal services in the industrialized world.

The Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review owes Canadians the opportunity to decide for themselves whether they want their national postal service modeled on the pursuit of profit and private interests alone, or on the public interest as a goal and reality. This can be achieved by the facilitation of public hearings. Finally, the CPCSRS itself has an opportunity: publicly and decisively reject deregulation, affirm public ownership of CPC and its exclusive privilege, and stand up for the values of Canadians to whom the CPCSRS must ultimately be answerable.

Sincerely,

Patti Dalton, President
London and District Labour Council