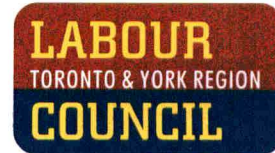


August 29, 2008



Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review
330 Sparks Street (HCCR)
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N5

Attention: **Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review Advisory Panel**

The Toronto and York Region Labour Council is made up of over 150 union locals, representing over 195,000 working women and men in Toronto and York region. Our members live in a region which is diverse with regards to mail delivery – from a mass concentration of commercial delivery in Toronto to farming and rural areas in King Township to a Native reservation in Georgina.

The Toronto & York Region Labour Council supports universal public postal service in Canada; an affordable postal service to everyone, no matter where they live in our huge country, be it a large urban centre or a rural or isolated community.

We strongly oppose any deregulation of Canada Post. Postal deregulation in other countries has largely led to fewer jobs, less service and higher postal rates for the public and small business. But we just have to look within Canada to see the effects of deregulation in other sectors, such as the trucking and airline industries. Deregulation has led to unstable pricing, bankruptcies, the gobbling up of smaller players by multinationals, leading to new monopoly control by multinational players.

We see a similar situation with the delivery of home care services in Ontario. Deregulation encouraged competitive bidding in home care delivery, which resulted in stable non-profit organizations being put out of business by for-profit corporations. There was a re-classifying of service providers as independent contractors and now more than 50% do not qualify for normal employer-employee relationship and benefits such as sick time, vacation pay and employment insurance. In many places, there has been a displacement of respected non-profit community organizations by private corporations.

If Canada Post's exclusive privilege to handle addressed letters is eroded or removed, this would surely lead to instability in postal service, a cut in services, lay-offs and job loss, and the growth of private monopolies with no accountability to the public. This goes further than the protection of jobs. Canada Post has a mandate to provide public postal service.

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The value of providing public services and the public sector must be encouraged and further entrenched in our society. The delivery of public services by governments ensures equality, universality, affordability, and accessibility regardless of one's identity, economic status, region in which they reside, or abilities. Turning the post office into a business will destroy this.

The Post Office must be a part of the Green Jobs strategy. If the letter market is deregulated and opened to competition, letter companies would vie for business in the same environmentally unsound way as parcel-courier companies. It is not uncommon to see two or three delivery trucks on the same street on the same day. This system of delivery maximizes fossil fuel consumption, traffic and pollution. Canada Post can be an environmental leader, and in fact should be one of the greenest companies, by retrofitting their facilities, green fleetings their vehicles and developing and testing environmental practices that could be extended to other industries.

Canada Post can continue to respond with innovative strategies such as expanding operations into electronic communications, as it has with its introduction of the bill organizing/paying system.

With a growing concern about poverty, the Federal Government's goal should be to do what it can to keep good jobs for workers in this country. A good job is one of the best pathways out of poverty. We also need to maintain and create good jobs for the future young workers entering the workforce. The Post Office also needs to continue to play a role in supporting other Canadian jobs in its procurement process, by purchasing products which are made in Canada.

Yes, we recognize that our post office must adapt to an ever-changing world, however, we do not support transforming our service-oriented public post office into a profit-driven business through commercial objectives, privatization, contracting out, or deregulation.

In closing, we urge you to also include public hearings as part of your process. The government needs to hear in an open and accountable manner from the real owners of our post office – the public.

Sincerely,



John Cartwright
President

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