



GOLDEN SOLIDARITY

1958-2008

**Nova Scotia
Government
& General
Employees
Union**

August 26, 2008

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

Office of the President
Joan Jessome
100 Eileen Stubbs Ave.
Dartmouth, N.S.
Canada B3B 1Y6

Fax – 613-990-9033

Email – info@cpcsr-esscp.gc.ca

Phone: (902) 424-4063
Toll-Free: 1-877-55-NSGEU
(67438)

Dear Advisory Panel Members:

Re: Submissions on the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review

Fax: (902) 484-6333

The Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (NSGEU) is the largest union in Nova Scotia, representing 26,000 public and private sector employees across the province.

The NSGEU is extremely concerned about the potential results of the current strategic review of Canada Post Corporation. Particularly, we are worried about the possible deregulation of Canada Post, and the lack of public consultation in the process. Our opinion is that the sweeping changes being considered by the strategic review would harm our members, the public at large, and the employees of Canada Post.

Central among the changes being considered is the possibility that Canada Post might lose its "exclusive privilege" to carry letters within Canada. This change could well imperil the universal postal service so essential to so many Canadians.

Working Canadians from coast to coast expect Canada Post to deliver their mail in an efficient and cost-effective manner, and Canada Post has admirably met those expectations for many years. Canada enjoys one of the lowest standard postage rates in the industrialized world and the employees of Canada Post do an excellent job in ensuring that mail is delivered quickly, accurately, and securely. Canada Post is able to provide this service on a universal basis because of the exclusive privilege.

Should Canada Post lose the exclusive privilege, it is likely that ordinary Canadians and small businesses will experience an increase in postage rates and a decline in service. This is of particular concern for residents of Canada's many rural communities, where postal service is most likely to be affected and where the loss of regular and reliable postal service would prove most traumatic.

e-mail: lsam@nsgeu.ca
web: www.nsgeu.ca



Component of the National Union of Public and General Employees affiliated to the C L C



- 2 -

The experience of other countries with postal deregulation indicates the potential negative effects on postal workers. In the United Kingdom, where the postal sector deregulated in 2006, an independent review found that "there have been no significant benefits from liberalization for smaller businesses and domestic consumers".

In Sweden, which deregulated its postal service in 1993, more than 16,000 jobs have been lost, with only 2,000 new jobs created by private carriers. Moreover, after postal deregulation any jobs created are more likely to be part-time or temporary, as evidenced by the experience in the private courier business.

The negative effects of postal deregulation on job opportunities would be disproportionately borne by women. In rural communities, which would likely be hit hardest, women represent a vast majority of Canada Post employees. These jobs are of primary importance to women in these areas, where resource-based economies offer comparatively few other significant employment opportunities.

Deregulation would also have a negative effect on the environment. Opening up Canada's postal system to more companies would result in more vehicles delivering the same amount of mail, creating more unneeded emissions.

Another troubling aspect of deregulation is the potential for a negative impact on the security of Canadian mail. Should Canada Post lose the exclusive privilege, many of the companies entering the newly created market would be American-based, and subject to the terms of the *USA Patriot Act*. Under this legislation, American companies delivering mail in Canada can be compelled to provide the American government with any records they have concerning the sending or receipt of mail. As an organization that sends and receives a great deal of extremely private information regarding its members through our currently secure postal system, the NSGEU is understandably worried by this.

The decision not to hold public hearings in this important matter is likewise troubling. Concerned Canadians should be given full opportunity to be heard regarding a process that may imperil a vital public service.

The Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union opposes any attempt by federal government to deregulate Canada Post. Canada Post is not broken, and needs no radical fixing. We should be proud of the fine job done by postal workers across this country to ensure that Canada Post delivers its mail on time and for a fair price.

Yours very truly,



Joan Jessome
President