

Submission to the Canada Post Strategic Review

Thank you for affording me this opportunity to express my concerns regarding any attempt to deregulate or privatize our Public Post Office. I have worked in the Postal Service for over thirty-five years and I am about to retire, so my viewpoint cannot be construed as a position that emanates out of personal gain.

When one examines the feasibility of the deregulation of the Postal Service it is crucial to ask two questions. Firstly, will deregulation improve service to all Canadians at a cost that will continue to sustain the present level of service? Secondly, will deregulation result in a two-tier Postal Service, where those who reside in rural or otherwise isolated areas are destined to receive sub-standard service, based solely on the immense size of our great nation?

Whenever business decisions are made, they are generally made using fiscal criteria that insures the financial viability of the company. All too often, these decisions, although fiscally sound, are acutely detrimental to the general public. If the Canada Post Corporation is sustainable in it's present state then any attempt to alter it through deregulation, should certainly be able to guarantee that no Canadians will be adversely affected. Crown Corporations should hold themselves to a higher standard and serve as an example to other companies, that the bottom line cannot be bolstered through social irresponsibility.

Other countries have privatized their Postal Services and the results have shown little or no benefit to the service itself. The very geographic nature of Canada dictates that postal revenues that are generated in high density, accessible areas are crucial to the extension of service to the outposts of this vast land. If lucrative segments of the Postal Service were severed and sold to private interests then surely those in isolated regions, who depend on CPC for communication, would be subjected to an expensive and compromised service.

With the expansion of the development of the far north as championed by the present government, the importance of protecting the sovereignty of our northern borders becomes paramount. Sir John A. MacDonald recognized this notion in his quest to bridge the borders with a railroad. Privatization of CPC would certainly translate into further isolation of the North. It would further isolate and violate the

right to a sustainable Postal Service for both the Aboriginal and Inuit Nations of the north.

Any decision to deregulate CPC should never be based on ideology. Canada has an opportunity to become leaders on the world stage. Public Post Offices are an example of a Canadiana that elevates us above other countries. We are a vast nation that believes in equality for all. Surely, if deregulation poses any threat to the viability of Postal Service everywhere, then it should immediately be abandoned. Life cannot always be a cash register. Humanitarian values that are reflected in our policy, prove that we have evolved above other nations.

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