

SUBMISSION TO
THE CANADA POST CORPORATION
STRATEGIC REVIEW

BY

DARREN STEINHOFF

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Sent Via Mail and Electronically

Dear Panel Members:

I wanted to write you and share my views on the Canada Post Corporation and the review you are conducting as mandated by the Harper Conservative government

First, I would like to say that I object to the way this review is being conducted. The Post Office in Canada is owned by the people as a public service for all Canadians. I find it completely inappropriate to review the mandate without holding public hearings to allow Canadians to express their views. It makes me suspicious why this government is in such a rush to have the mandate reviewed without holding public hearings and only holding consultations with large volume mailers and trans-national courier companies. It certainly isn't transparent or democratic.

Any changes to the mandate of Canada Post should only be considered after cross-Canada public hearings have taken place and the true owners have had an opportunity to express our views and hold the government accountable.

I am opposed to the elimination of the exclusive privilege on first class letter mail. Canada Post's monopoly on first class letters allows the postal service to raise sufficient revenues to guarantee and maintain a universal service and product price that is equal for everyone in Canada no matter where they live. I have lived in small communities throughout Alberta and could always count on the postal service to send and receive letters and packages from family and friends. After moving to Calgary and later Winnipeg, the postal service has afforded me the opportunity to stay in contact with people in rural and remote communities at an affordable and universal price. I don't want this to change. Eliminating the exclusive privilege will undermine the universal service obligation under the CPC Act and needs to be completely rejected by your panel.

I also do not believe that Canada Post should be forced to pay dividends to the Government of Canada. Dividends should be returned to the owners of the Post Office, the Canadian people. These dividends should be in the form of expanding services to Canadians like the expansion of door-to-door delivery and eliminating community mailboxes, expanding the number of

Corporate Retail offices instead of drug stores handling the mail and making the Post Office a safer place to work for those that process and deliver the mail. Those interested in rates of return on equity and commercial performance should pursue their interests in the financial world and leave the postal service alone.

I want Canada Post to continue to assist in social policy development in areas such as the Food Mail Program for northern and remote communities, reduced rates for 2nd class publication mailings and maintain the services provided for people with vision disabilities. It would be quite incredible and backwards thinking to remove those services or make them pay higher postage rates.

I call upon you to reject the right wing rhetoric that wants to see the public service destroyed. Their motives are self serving. They don't care about people, they only care about profits.

Canada Post plays a vitally important role in the economic and social development of our country. Our postage rates are the second lowest in the industrialized world which is quite an accomplishment given the sheer size of Canada. It has maintained self sufficiency for 12 consecutive years and continues to provide efficient and affordable service. In short, our postal system is working well and meeting the needs of Canadians and should be left alone.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views on this important subject.

Sincerely,

Darren Steinhoff
Manitoba