



**TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS UNION**  
**SYNDICAT DES TRAVAILLEURS(EUSES)**  
**EN TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS**



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

**Submission to Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review**

The Telecommunications Workers Union (TWU) welcomes this opportunity to make a submission to the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review (CPCSR).

The Telecommunications Workers Union represents sixteen thousand workers in communications and related industries across Canada. One of the objectives of the TWU is to advance the social, economic and general welfare of working people. It is that objective that leads us to provide this submission. We are very concerned about the future of universal public postal service in this country.

As an organization and as individuals, we are users of the mail and are concerned by the kind of changes being considered by the CPCSR, such as deregulation of our public post office. The TWU relies on the mail to communicate with our members on a regular basis. As our members live in communities from one side of Canada to the other, Canada Post is a vital link in our connections.

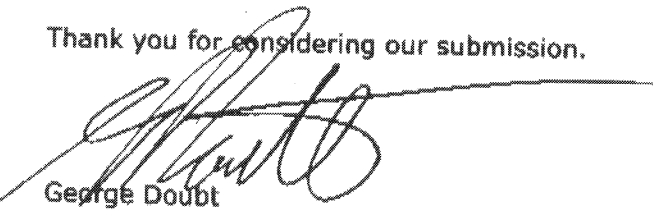
Overall, full-scale postal deregulation and deregulation of other communications industries has not worked well. We are very concerned that more deregulation would negatively affect our members.

- Postal and communications deregulation in other countries has largely led to fewer jobs, less service and higher rates for the public and small businesses.
- Many of our members live in small communities or are separated from other communities by long distances. Serving these customers is less attractive to a deregulated service. We are concerned that deregulation will result in more costly communications or no service at all in some areas.
- An independent review of the United Kingdom's deregulated postal sector found that "there have been no significant benefits from liberalization for smaller businesses and domestic consumers".
- Only a few countries have had any long-term experience with postal deregulation. It would make sense to wait and see what happens in other countries before making irrevocable changes to our universal, public post office.

- There is no good reason to change the mechanism that funds universal postal service – the exclusive privilege. We currently have one of the lowest standard postage rates in the industrial world. Our postal services are universal and affordable, no small feat in the second largest country in the world.
- Deregulation elsewhere has not proven to be a good thing for the public. People who use deregulated post offices tend to pay a higher postage rate than we do. The standard postage rate in Sweden has increased by 90% since its post office was deregulated in 1993 while the Canadian rate has increased by only 21% during the same period (1993 to 2005).
- The United Kingdom's Royal Mail has faced intense pressure from competitors since it was deregulated in 2006, resulting in falling mail volumes and revenues. Royal Mail says higher prices for stamped letters are inevitable and universal service is at risk.
- Our post office is not broken. It does not need to be fixed, only improved.
- It will be difficult for Canada Post to improve public postal service if the government erodes or eliminates the mechanism that funds this service (i.e. the exclusive privilege).

Members of the TWU are also members of the public with a real stake in our public post office. We are concerned, from this perspective, that the government is not holding public hearings as part of its review of Canada Post. Any review of our public post office should include public hearings. The government should not make any decisions about our public post office until it has properly consulted with the public. The government should also extend the deadline for submissions.

Thank you for considering our submission.



George Doubt  
President  
TWU