

Dear Dr. Campbell, Mrs. Beaudoin and Mr. Bader:

RE: Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review (CPCSR)

I am writing to you because I am very concerned about the future of universal, public postal service in this country.

I am most concerned about the issue of whether Canada Post should continue to have the exclusive privilege of handling our mail, or if it should be opened up to free-market competition. Although I feel that the Canadian Postal service may have room for improvement, I feel very strongly that deregulation would jeopardize universal postal service. Postal service is an "essential service", and it is just as essential, if not more so, to rural and remote Canadians as it is to the urban folks. If postal delivery is opened up to free market competition, those living in rural or remote areas would see a reduction or elimination of services because it is not profitable. This will lead us to having to pay exorbitant costs for mail delivery service using 'for profit' companies. This is unacceptable to place this hardship on top of the others of being in a rural community; such as worse access to doctors & medical facilities, higher price home heating fuel , gasoline, groceries, etc. This reduction in access and consequently, lower standard of living has happened with other governmental deregulations. A good example of this was the deregulation of the railroad service. I am told that postal deregulation in other countries has led to reduced service, higher postal rates and fewer jobs. There is no good reason to make a change that would undermine Canada Post's ability to fund and provide services to all Canadians.

I understand that consultations are being held with stakeholders, including government, industry, delivery companies and business groups. I am very concerned that public comment can only be made in written submissions. The lack of public hearings during this review of Canada Post, which most government review panels undertake, concerns me greatly. The lack of public hearings always implies to me, whether true or not, that a 'hidden agenda' is being pushed through that will help big business and hurt middle & lower income Canadians.

I stand with The Council of Canadians and citizens across the country in saying NO to postal deregulation.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Randy Arnold  
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