

BRAMPTON-MISSISSAUGA AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL
989 Derry Rd. E., Ste. 403, Mississauga, Ontario L5T 2J8
905 696-8882 Fax 905 696-7355 www.bmdlc.ca

September 2, 2008

Submission to the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review Advisory Panel

The Brampton-Mississauga and District Labour Council represents over 10,000 unionized workers in the Region of Peel many of which are members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

The Brampton-Mississauga and District Labour Council supports the following principles; support against privatization, maintenance of the CPC as a crown corporation, support for a universal effective an economically viable postal service and continuation of the role of the CPC as an instrument of public policy through the provision of postal services to all Canadians. However the BMDLC is concerned with the absence of a strong commitment to maintain legal provisions essential for the funding of a universal, accessible and affordable public postal service for all Canadians. We are concerned with the possibility that the current review could lead to the deregulation of our public postal service.

Our public postal service provides universal and affordable services to all Canadians, no matter where they live. As the second largest landmass in the world and one of the smallest population densities, access to a universal and affordable postal service is an important piece of public policy required to maintain a healthy social and economic network within Canada.

Any deregulation of postal services would jeopardize the universality, accessibility and low cost of the public postal service for all Canadians. In the event that the federal government would decide to deregulate our postal service by reducing or eliminating this exclusive privilege, we believe that they would have only two alternatives: dramatically reducing services or finding other sources of funding to pay for a universal service. Neither of these options are in the best interest of Canadians.

The BMDLC believes it is essential to maintain the current objectives and mandate of the Canada Post Corporation. Maintenance and extension of services, operating on a self sustaining financial basis and ensuring good relations with the workforce are models for

any public corporation. While the conversion to a crown corporation has been positive and much progress had been made, we believe that the interpretation of “the need to conduct its operation on a self-sustaining financial basis” as specified in Section 5 of the Act has taken precedence over the other goals of the Corporation with negative consequences for both services and jobs.

The governments financial and policy framework for Canada Post calls on the post office to act like a commercial enterprise that generates commercial profits and dividends, even though it has a legal mandate to provide and improve public postal service, not maximize profits. The framework instructs the corporation to provide a commercial rate of and pay an annual dividend of 40 per cent of net profit. With the intensification of competition from other sources of communication, like the internet and text messaging, investments and development of new products and services are required for the maintenance and the development of our public postal service. The obligation to make such investments should be at the top of the agenda, not discussions about a rate of return for the federal government.

We believe that no changes to our public postal service and to Canada Post’s mandate should be considered without the direct input and consent of consumer, workers, stakeholders, members of the public and Members of Parliament. The fact that the current strategic review is being conducted without public hearings, in both urban and rural areas across Canada, seems to demonstrate the government’s intention of unilaterally modifying Canada Post’s mandate, without the consent of Canadians. Such consensus was achieved when the legislation creating Canada Post was unanimously passed in 1981, and this consensus should be replicated for any future major changes to the CPC.

The Brampton-Mississauga and District Labour Council will condemn any attempt by the federal government to deregulate all or part of Canada Post. The primary public policy objectives of universal, accessible and affordable public postal service must be protected against the market in the best interest of all Canadians wherever they live.

This document is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Brampton-Mississauga and District Labour Council

W. Charles Courneyea
President