



The Labrador West Status of Women

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The Labrador West Status of Women Council welcomes this opportunity to make a submission to the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review (CPCSR).

The Labrador West Status of Women Council has existed in Labrador West since 1977. The mandate of the Labrador Status of Women Council is dedicated to supporting the empowerment of women and families in the Labrador west area but we also deal with the ongoing issues of youth in Labrador West. We are a non-profit organization and we have a many members in the Labrador West/Wabush areas.

As users of the mail, we are concerned by the kind of changes being considered by the CPCSR, such as deregulation of our public post office. The Labrador West Status of Women Council relies on the mail to get information out to women in the local area as well as relaying information to our Women's Policy Office located in St. John's. We use the postal system for a variety of ways to allow the public access to the information our Council has to provide. The postal services in Labrador West allow us to utilize getting out important information to our funder as well as to the general public.

- Overall, full-scale postal deregulation has not worked well. We are very concerned that deregulation would negatively affect our members. Some of those reasons would include;
- Postal deregulation in other countries has largely led to fewer jobs less service and higher postal rates for the public, small businesses and non-profit organizations such as ours.
- 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).
- 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).

The Labrador West Status of Women Council would like to see improvements made to the Post Office in Labrador West without having deregulation. In our opinion as a non-profit organization dealing with all aspects of women's rights we feel that deregulation will limit the postal service for this area.

Members of the Labrador West Status of Women Council 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.



Noreen Careen
Executive Director
Labrador West Status of Women Council