

Canada Post Strategic Review Panel,

I am writing to you in regards to the serious concerns I have in respect to the strategic review that is being done on the Canada Post Corporation. It is my understanding that the committee is looking at the possibility of deregulating the postal industry in Canada.

Deregulation of the postal industry in Canada will be detrimental to all aspects of our vast country. By removing the exclusive privilege that Canada Post now has will make it impossible for Canada Post to be a profitable crown corporation. By allowing other companies to compete in the postal sector, especially in the concentrated urban areas, will greatly reduce the revenues that Canada Post needs to subsidize the delivery to the smaller rural areas in this vast country. These rural communities need to have an affordable postal system. Many northern communities rely on the postal system to bring in essential goods such as medications, food, and often is the only avenue they have available to them for written communications. By deregulating this system it will invariably raise postal rates to these communities. This in my view is very troubling.

Another concern that I have with deregulation is the safety of sensitive information that is sent through the mail. Identity theft is on the rise in Canada and by opening up the delivery to other companies, I fear that our sensitive information will not be safeguarded. Canada Post pays their employees a good wage to supply security to our mail and I seriously doubt companies such as UPS will pay their employees a living wage because their mandate is to maximize profits, while CPC's mandate presently is to provide a safe universal public service to Canadians, not to turn out huge profits. There are also serious penalties for tampering with the mail now and if this happens there is only one place a person needs to go to make a complaint or an inquiry. With deregulation it is very possible that there could be many companies delivering to households which would make it almost impossible to track your mail or know who to complain to about service.

Thirdly, I do not see any reason what so ever to change the way that Canada Post operates presently. This Canadian institution has been profitable for 14 straight years and has provided a steady universal service to all Canadians for a century. Canada Post pays millions of dollars in dividends to the Canadian government every year and without the universal service obligation this would most certainly stop. I don't understand why you would want to tamper with something that isn't broken. I also fear that there would be serious labour strife in the post office if deregulation were to happen. Job loss would be astronomical which would have a serious negative effect to our Canadian economy.

In closing, I would like to stress that the post office is not broken, so there is no reason to touch it! I understand that the chair of the strategic review committee has also published papers in favour of the deregulation of post offices globally. In my opinion this is not the unbiased point of view that is need in a review such as this one. This is very troubling and even bordering on illegal. It seems this review may already be completed before it has started. This makes me sick.

With no public forums allowed for the shareholders of Canada post to express their views to the panel, this is not democracy.

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