

Strategic Review committee

First it goes without saying that the lack of public hearings regarding this review is tantamount to fraud. Canadians have a right to know what is going to happen to their post office. The Conservatives do not have a right to stealthily push through a review of the post office without any public hearings during the dog days of summer. But I suppose stealth and secrecy mark this entire Conservative government.

Canada Post presently functions as it should and has been profitable for 12+ years. Not one penny has come from the Canadian taxpayer to fund postal services since it became a Crown corporation. If this committee or the Conservative government has ideas on deregulating the post office they should look to the U.K. where deregulation occurred two short years ago and the Royal Mail is ready to implode on itself. Massive post office closures and job loss are the highlights of that little experiment. Other countries that have deregulated have also had massive job loss and huge increases in postal rates. At present Canadians enjoy one of the lowest postage rates in the G8 which is admirable for the second largest country in the world.

Rural Canada needs Canada Post strong and public with the exclusive privilege intact so that the post office can provide universal service for the same price for all Canadians. It is a known fact that delivering mail to rural Canada is much more expensive than in urban centres. It is those urban centres (Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver) that subsidize delivery of the mail to rural Canada. If Canada Post is deregulated other courier companies will snatch up those lucrative urban centres leaving rural Canada to fend for itself with possible bail outs by the federal government. We have already been there, why would we want to go back?

I urge you to urge the government to put Canada Post profits back into postal service and to forget any ideas of deregulating the post office. I urge you to keep Canada Post entirely public and able to maintain its exclusive privilege so that Canadians may continue to receive some the most inexpensive and best postal service in the world.

Sincerely,

Mark Evard
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