



NORTHERN TERRITORIES FEDERATION OF LABOUR

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September 2, 2008

Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review
330 Sparks St. (HCCR)
Ottawa, Ontario
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Sent via Email to: info@cpcsr-esscp.gc.ca

Dear Panel Members,

On behalf of the Northern Territories Federation of Labour, I am writing in response to your letter requesting stakeholder views on the strategic review of the Canada Post Corporation.

There are three main concerns that we would like to address; the lack of public consultation, the need for retaining exclusive privilege on letters, and the spending of profits.

Public Consultation

It is appalling that a review of this magnitude could occur without public hearings across the country. Many Canadian citizens, whose voices are essential to the decision-making process, have been left out. Furthermore, conducting this review over the summer, with a deadline of September 2nd, has eliminated the potential for greater input. Unfortunately, the appearance is that our Government really doesn't want to hear from its people. We strongly suggest that the time frame be extended and public hearings be scheduled in every Province and Territory.

Exclusive Privilege

Allowing Canada Post to retain its exclusive privilege to deliver letters is absolutely essential to all Northerners. Using the "technological change" excuse to deregulate Canada Post does not apply in the North. Many of our residents do not have access to internet, and certainly don't own computers. Deregulation would hurt those who depend on Canada Post the most, and further marginalize Northerners.

Since Sweden deregulated their postal system in 1993, the rates have jumped by ninety (90%) percent! This is not a model we should be emulating.

Profit Spending

The Canada Post Corporation Act does not require the postal service to make profits or pay dividends. Although the Financial Administration Act states that there is a “reasonable expectation that the Corporation will pay dividends, there is certainly no expectation to generate the same level of returns that would be expected in a private company.

The profit generated by Canada Post should be reinvested back into the Corporation to enhance service. Post offices should be kept open and contracting out should stop. Rural mail delivery should be maintained and door-to-door service expanded. Most importantly, the health and safety of the workers should be made a priority. The injury rates of Canada Post employees are the highest in the Federal sector, and this needs to be addressed.

In closing, your job as panel members is a very important one. We are counting on you to make recommendations that will not dismantle our Canada Post; but rather, make recommendations that will enhance and strengthen our universal, “one-price-goes-anywhere” postal service.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Cherwaty
President