

August 21, 2008

Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review
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Dear Sirs/Madams:

Oxfam Canada is pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the proposed review of Canada Post Corporation. As a major Canadian non-profit, we make extensive use of Canada Post's services to communicate with our donors and supporters, and we count on having access to them for the foreseeable future.


In addition, as an international development organization, we have come to appreciate perhaps more than most the essential role that public services play in society. Strong public services, including the postal service, are the foundation upon which Canada built a prosperous and relatively equitable society. In developing countries, public services lie at the heart of efforts to raise living standards and reduce poverty.

Our experience in over one hundred countries around the world has taught us that only government can achieve the scale necessary to provide universal access to services, and can gear them to the needs of all citizens, especially those that have low incomes or suffer discrimination. Civil society and private service providers can make important contributions, but only if properly regulated and integrated into a strong public system.

We are pleased to see that the Strategic Review affirms the principles that Canada Post should remain a crown corporation and should continue to provide universal access to postal services. In our experience, those two elements are crucial to ensuring that services are available and appropriate for all citizens.

Our experience with Canada Post is that it provides effective universal services for an affordable price. We recommend no changes be made to a system that in our view works extremely well.

Sincerely,



Robert Fox
Executive Director