

Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review  
330 Sparks Street (HCCR)  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

July 9, 2008

Dear advisory panel,

As a Canadian citizen, I am deeply concerned about the potential deregulation of Canada Post. Our unique geography makes providing universal, affordable postal service a challenge and, as you know, it is Canada Post's exclusive privilege to handle addressed letters that makes this feat possible. Deregulation has the potential to create differential cost based on geography, which would bode well neither for Canadians living in remote areas, nor for Canadian solidarity.

Moreover, it is almost certain that a deregulated postal arena would attract American competitors bound by US law, including the Patriot Act. As you surely know, this legislation is extremely controversial even within the United States, and it is absolutely unthinkable that its reach should extend to Canada. Canadians value their privacy, and have no desire to see it eroded, as is happening to our southern neighbours.

I am also concerned that public hearings are not being held for this review. A decision of this magnitude, concerning essential infrastructure upon which all Canadians depend, should broadly and publicly solicit the input of all citizens. To alter the basic framework of an essential public service without extensive public input is to erode faith in the transparency of Canadian democracy. No decision about our public post office should be made until the public has been properly consulted.

The effects of deregulation are not uniformly good. Many countries are suffering, or beginning to suffer, from the effects of deregulation mandated by neoliberal economic principles. It would be rash and irresponsible to implement such a system at the expense of our current, successful postal corporation without extensive public debate that examines the potential consequences of such a change.

The CPCR must include greater public input if it is to be accepted as legitimate by Canadians; the current submission deadline of September 2, 2008 should also be extended to provide ample opportunity for Canadians to voice their concerns.

I await your reply.

Sincerely,

Matthew Park  
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