



**Bill  
Blaikie**

MP, Elmwood-Transcona



October 3, 2005

NDP Deputy Leader - Chef adjoint du NDP

The Honourable John McCallum, PC MP  
Minister Responsible for Canada Post  
Connaught Building, 7th Floor South  
555 MacKenzie Ave.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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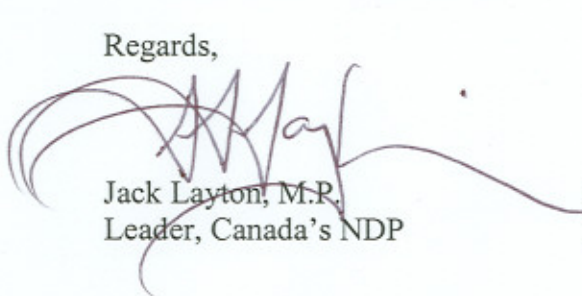
Dear Minister McCallum:

We are writing to urge you to immediately direct Canada Post to stop plans to close the mail processing plant in Quebec City. As well, we urge you to meet as soon as possible with officials from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) and representatives of La Riposte, the coalition objecting to Canada Post's plan to close the mail processing plant in Quebec City.

Given that the proposed plant closure would undermine service in Quebec City and the surrounding region and destroy 302 jobs, we think it is vital that closure plans are put on the shelf and that discussions with CUPW representatives and people affected by these proposed changes take place.

Finally, we understand the announcement to close the Quebec City mail processing plant is the very first step in a review by Canada Post of its national network. We urge you to ensure that this review only proceed with the input of CUPW and potentially affected communities. Because Canada Post belongs to all Canadians, Canadians should have a say in any review of its operations.

Regards,

  
Jack Layton, M.P.  
Leader, Canada's NDP

  
Bill Blaikie, M.P.  
NDP Crown Corporations Critic

c.c. Deborah Bourque, National President, Canadian Union of Postal Workers

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2005**

**NPD DENOUNCES CLOSING OF  
QUEBEC CITY SORTING STATION**  
*Another broken Liberal promise*

**QUEBEC CITY** — NDP MP Bill Blaikie has denounced Canada Post's decision to close the Quebec City Sorting Station. This decision will lead to the loss of 302 jobs and will take \$16 million from the local economy. As postal critic, Blaikie reiterated the NDP's support for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW).

"The NDP stands firmly behind CUPW in this regard. This decision is completely unwarranted and will have a tremendous impact on the region. What is more, the Liberal government is breaking another promise by violating the current moratorium. It is the public who will suffer the consequences directly," stated MP Blaikie.

Last July, Canada Post announced to CUPW that it was reviewing its national network. A few weeks later, the Quebec City Sorting Centre was closed. The services were transferred to Montreal. All this in spite of the fact that Canada Post has in the past had to reopen stations it had closed in the region.

"Canada Post has clearly acted unilaterally in this regard. It had promised to consult the unions and the public before making decisions that would have a strong impact on people's daily lives. It did not use this approach and the NDP and its candidates in the region will be working to institute a fair approach," stated Pierre Ducasse, the NDP's advisor on Quebec.

Canada Post has indicated that it decided to close the station because it no longer met operational requirements and is located in a part of the city with a lot of traffic congestion. It should be noted that the Quebec City Sorting Station very often had the best performance results.

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**For more information, contact:**

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