



Hey Harper – Hands off my post office

Say no to postal deregulation

Submissions to save universal public postal service

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Fact Sheet

The federal government is reviewing our post office for the first time in 12 years. It has asked an advisory panel to conduct this inquiry, which it is calling the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review (CPCSR). The panel has a very broad and scary mandate. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) is asking the public, community groups, small businesses and others to consider making submissions to the CPCSR in support of universal public postal service. A submission can be short or long. It can be a letter. This fact sheet provides suggestions for making submissions and highlights a few areas of concern.

Some points you may wish to cover:

1. Deregulation

The government’s strategic review will look at a very basic and important issue: Should Canada Post continue to have an exclusive privilege to handle addressed letters or should the letter market be open to competition?

Providing Canada Post with an exclusive privilege to handle addressed letters is a form of regulation. Reducing or eliminating this privilege is deregulation.

Regulations exist for reasons. Canada Post has an exclusive privilege to handle letters so that it is

able to generate enough money to provide affordable postal service to everyone, no matter where they live in our huge country, be it a large urban centre or a rural or isolated community. It will become increasingly difficult for our public post office to provide universal postal service if the government erodes or eliminates the very mechanism that funds universal postal service – the exclusive privilege.

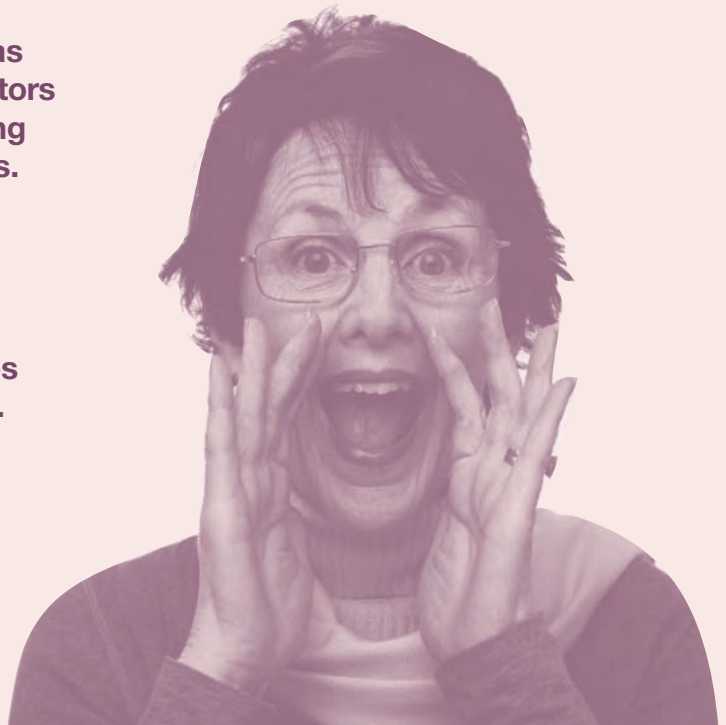
For more information, see *Fact Sheet #4: Five reasons to oppose deregulation of our public post office.*

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Suggestions for making submissions:

- Postal deregulation in other countries has largely led to fewer jobs, less service and higher postal rates for the public and small businesses.
- Recently, an independent review of the United Kingdom's deregulated postal sector found that "there have been no significant benefits from liberalisation for smaller businesses and domestic consumers." For the report go to: <http://www.berr.gov.uk/publications/index.html>
- Only a few countries have had any long-term experience with postal deregulation. It would make sense to wait and see what happens in other countries before making irrevocable changes to our universal, public post office.
- Hands off our post office. There is no good reason to change the mechanism that funds universal postal service – the exclusive privilege. We currently have one of the lowest standard postage rates in the industrial world. Our postal services are universal and affordable, no small feat in the second largest country in the world.
- Deregulation elsewhere has not proven to be a good thing for the public. People who use deregulated post offices tend to pay a higher postage rate than we do. The standard postage rate in Sweden has increased by 90% since its post office was deregulated in 1993 while the Canadian rate has increased by only 21% during the same period.
- The United Kingdom's Royal Mail has faced intense pressure from competitors since it deregulated in 2006, resulting in falling mail volumes and revenues. Royal Mail says higher prices for stamped letters are inevitable and universal service is at risk.
- Our post office is not broken. It does not need to be fixed, only improved.



2. Public service or business goals

The strategic review will also consider what financial targets are appropriate for our public post office. Currently, the government asks Canada Post to generate business-like profits and dividends. As a result, the corporation tends to focus on major customers and profit-making rather

than on the public and providing a public service. Canada Post needs to shift its focus to public interest objectives.

For more information, see *Fact Sheet #3: Our universal public postal service - Our vision*.

Suggestions for making submissions:

- When our post office became a Crown corporation in 1981, business groups and others insisted that the Canada Post Corporation Act include a provision ensuring that “postage rates shall be fair, reasonable and sufficient to defray the costs incurred by the Corporation in the conduct of its operations under this Act.” They didn’t want the post office to become a cash cow for the government. They wanted all money from postage ploughed back into service.
- The government should stop taking millions in dividends from Canada Post and start investing this money in public postal services like post offices, rural delivery and door-to-door delivery.

3. Public hearings

The federal government has decided not to hold public hearings in connection with its review. It has asked the review’s advisory panel to accept submissions from the public and groups over a four-month period which includes the summer. The decision to forgo hearings and adhere to a tight time frame appears to be designed to limit

input from the real owners of our post office – the public.

You can get additional information about the government’s review from *Fact #2: The Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review*.

Suggestions for making submissions:

- Any review of our public post office should include public hearings. The government should not make any decisions about our public post office until it has properly consulted with the public. The government should also extend the deadline for submissions.

Making a Submission

Submissions are due by September 2, 2008

The Canada Post Strategic Review says a “submission may consist of brief statements, comments or more elaborate analyses and reports”.

Submissions must be in French or English.

Organizations must use official letterhead.

Send your submissions

By Mail:

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

By Fax:

613-990-9033

By E-mail:

Send a PDF or MS Word document attachment to:
info@cpcsr-esscp.gc.ca

Through the CPCSR website:

Make your views known by going to:
<http://www.cpcstrategicreview-examenstrategiquescp.gc.ca/hw-eng.html>

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CUPW information on the Strategic Review of Canada Post: cupw.ca/StrategicReview



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