

Minister of State
Transport



Ministre d'État
Transports

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

FEB 11 2010

Mr. Denis Lemelin
National President
Canadian Union of Postal Workers
377 Bank Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 1Y3

Dear Mr. Lemelin:

I am writing in response to your correspondence of December 7, 2009, regarding the moratorium on rural post office closures, the consultation process in the Canadian Postal Service Charter and recommendations in the report of the Canada Post Corporation Strategic Review.

As I have indicated to you in earlier correspondence, the Service Charter clearly states that postal services to rural regions are an integral part of Canada Post's universal service. Consequently, the Government of Canada is maintaining the existing moratorium on the closure of rural post offices. No dilution of the existing moratorium is being considered.

Section 14 of the Service Charter specifically addresses community outreach and consultation around decisions to permanently close, move or amalgamate corporate post offices. Given my responsibilities for Canada Post, I am informed of the results of all community consultations and of the arrangements made to ensure ongoing postal service to the community.

During the independent review of Canada Post, the public was invited to present submissions and the independent review panel met with a number of stakeholders, including the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. The Service Charter was informed by the independent review panel's public consultations and also by the many resolutions that both the panel and I received.

Canada 

I should note that the federal government has carefully considered all of the panel's recommendations. With respect to the recommendation that the postal market not be deregulated or that Canada Post's exclusive privilege not be reduced except for outbound international mail, the Government of Canada's position on this has been clear for some time. Canada Post will continue to have the exclusive privilege for domestic mail throughout Canada.

The government will be assessing Canada Post's performance against the expectations of the Service Charter on an annual basis. In five years, the government will review the Service Charter to assess the need to adapt it to changing requirements.

As a Crown corporation, Canada Post operates at arm's length from the federal government and is responsible for the management of its own operations, including the implementation of operational procedures and policies needed to meet the expectations set out in the Service Charter. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers has a unique perspective and insight to bring to bear as Canada Post implements the Service Charter. For this reason, I encourage you to share your suggestions with Canada Post.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Merrifield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end.

Hon. Rob Merrifield, P.C., M.P.