



June 16, 2014

amendment

House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Sir, Madame,

The Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA) is the bargaining agent that represents over 5,600 permanent and 2,900 temporary employees of the Canada Post Corporation. Our bargaining unit consists of 95% women who work in rural post offices and communities where meaningful employment opportunities are few.

CPAA believes that expanding universal postal service across Canada is essential to the survival of rural communities and that the Canada Post Corporation has a public policy obligation to serve every Canadian address, particularly those in rural Canada.

Last December 11th, Canada Post, with the blessings of the current government, released its Five-point Action Plan. This plan has been condemned by the business community, the media, labour organizations, social and special interest groups, many Canadians, political parties and even some Conservative MPs.

CPAA along with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), believes that the success and financial long term viability of Canada Post Corporation lies with the reintroduction of the postal bank.

Postal administrations the world over introduced postal banks. While the results are varied, they all brought in a much needed revenue stream which enabled the postal administration of these countries to offset operating losses in other segments of their businesses. It also allowed the modernization of their infrastructures. In many cases, it even enabled them to fulfill and sometimes expand their social mandate. Canada Post did an extensive study on postal banking from 2009 to 2011. CPAA received a copy of the study and despite the fact over two thirds of the study was redacted, it appeared that Canada Post believed in the desirability of a postal bank. In their words it is a "Win Win proposition".

In Canada, it is estimated that 900,000 Canadians do not have access to a bank. Many of these individuals are forced to use the services of predatory financial companies like Money Mart, Zippy, Wonga and others. A postal bank would not only be a win win proposition for the Corporation, but given a social mandate, it could assist the un-banked and under-banked Canadians in improving their living conditions from their current substandard survival existence. As with the post of France, Italy, Britain, New Zealand and others, we believe that a Canada Post Corporation postal bank should have a social mandate to assist the under-banked population.

We do not know the amount of service charges and usurious fees paid by the 900,000 Canadians to these badly regulated companies. However, we know that last year alone in the USA, 68 million under-banked citizens paid \$89 billion in fees. We need not to tell you that this money could have sheltered, fed and clothed many working poor.

Canada Post Corporation, despite the many reductions and closures of the last two years, still has the largest retail and distribution network of any Canadian corporate entity. Its brand is recognized and trusted almost universally. Adding to its social mandate, a Canada Post postal bank could reintroduce a financial institution to the more than 2000 Canadian rural and isolated communities currently without access to any banking institution. A postal bank could be the federal government engine to revitalize rural Canada and help establish new industries and businesses for these communities.

Our members and the citizens of rural Canada are concerned by the efforts of the current government to dismantle this unparalleled retail and distribution network and of the negative impacts on their lives. CPAA intends to involve itself in the upcoming 2015 election like never before.

With the above in mind, we respectfully ask for your position with regards to:

- Maintaining Crown owned corporate post offices in rural Canada
- Expanding postal outlets products and services, including banking and financial services
- Expanding government services utilizing the rural postal network

In planning for the 2015 election, we wish to communicate to our members and the citizens of rural Canada the positions of our political allies. In keeping with our Association's motto, we will urge Canadians to vote "**to build not to destroy**". We sincerely hope we can count on you and your party.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Brenda McAuley, National President, CPAA