



January 23, 2017

Mayor Perry Oates
Town of Fermeuse
General Delivery
Fermeuse NL A0A 2G0

Dear Mayor Perry Oates,

The Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA) is the voice of rural post office employees since 1902. It is the second-largest bargaining unit under the Canada Post umbrella; representing members who work in post offices in towns, indigenous communities and villages throughout rural Canada. We are in touch with over 6 million rural customers on a regular basis. Most often we are the only federal presence and the hub of the community.

CPAA members, 95% of them women, operate 3,260 post offices across Canada; 300 of these offices are in your province.

We write to you today to share our concerns over the Federal Government Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates' (OGGO) report regarding Canada Post, released on December 13, 2016. If you have not seen it yet, you can access the report at the following web address:

http://bit.ly/OGGO_EN

Amongst the many recommendations made by the Committee, most of which we support, we note the absence of a recommendation on postal banking. In your province alone 84% of the communities do not have a financial institution, yet they have a corporate post office. Often your constituents have to travel long distances to receive banking services. If your citizens have to travel out of town for banking services, it is almost certain that they will also patronize other businesses in that town or city, thereby losing earning opportunities from your own town's businesses.

We at CPAA strongly feel that the resurrection of the postal bank, which was closed in 1969 when large banks were expanding in rural Canada, is a perfect fit for Canada Post. More importantly for the businesses and the citizens of your community, it is a means to ensure access to financial services. You may remember that prior to the OGGO's report, the Government had set up a Task Force to examine the challenges of Canada Post and to provide options for the future of the Corporation. The Task Force report¹, which preceded the OGGO's report, mentioned that 39% of Canadian businesses would use a postal bank. It also mentioned that 38% of Canadian citizens would use a postal bank.

¹ <http://bit.ly/tpsgc>

According to the 2011 Census, Canada's rural population consisted of 6,329,414 citizens. What bank could not succeed with 38% of that number of customers? Canadians in urban centres have many banking options. The rural Canada reality is vastly different.

If like us at CPAA, you feel that a postal bank would benefit your community, we ask you to write to Minister Judy Foote to voice your views and concerns. We recommend that you also copy your letter or email it to Ms. Karine Trudel, the New Democrat MP who sat on the OGGO Committee, as she was a strong supporter of the postal bank. Their postage-free addresses and email addresses are as follows:

The Honourable Judy Foote
Minister of Public Services and Procurement
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A6 or judy.foote@parl.gc.ca

Ms. Karine Trudel (MP)
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A6 or karine.trudel@parl.gc.ca

Canada Post is uniquely positioned to offer financial services to rural Canada. When Canada Post can make money, and offer more services to Canadians who need them, we have a perfect opportunity. Let's not lose it!

Thank you for your time. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this issue with a local CPAA representative, we invite you to reach out to our Newfoundland and Labrador CPAA President as follows:

President Kimberly V. Hunt
20 Dawes Place
Conception Bay S. NL A1X 6Z7
(709) 744-1945
kvhunt@nf.sympatico.ca

Sincerely,



Brenda McAuley, CPAA National President
281 Queen Mary St.
Ottawa ON K1K 1X1