

# **SAVE OUR POST OFFICES, BY STOPPING THE CUTS AND ADDING BANKING SERVICES!**

Dear Canadian Public,

**Please help us save your public post office system which Canada Post is trying to destroy... and ultimately privatize.**

Canada Post launched a 5 point plan in December 2013. Its plan has already increased rates, begun to close down more public post offices, reduced services in rural and urban post offices, making them less convenient while promoting franchises, started the shut down of home delivery, and is on track to eliminate over 8,000 good jobs in both rural and urban Canada.

**We believe Canada Post is just preparing the terrain to privatize Canada Post instead of trying to save and improve it.**

We know a recent study, commissioned by the Harper Government in 2013, (and which the public has not been allowed to see), examined possible privatization.<sup>1</sup> Privatization would have disastrous consequences for the Canadian public, by resulting in even more increased prices and poorer service, particularly for rural Canada. Privatization would undoubtedly mean the closure of many rural post offices and the loss of even more jobs. We also know that the Canadian public opposes privatization.<sup>2</sup>

**We now have new proof that there is a better way to go which would mean stopping all the cuts Canada Post is proposing.**

We, at the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association, believe we can keep and improve our postal services and, at the same time, open new revenue streams. We have just published the results of a new survey done over the summer of over 3300 rural post offices across Canada. Over 78% of all those post offices responded! The results of the survey are available for download at: [www.cpaacmpa.ca](http://www.cpaacmpa.ca)

**Our survey shows that 45% of communities surveyed (nearly 1200) have a post office, but no bank or credit union. Many Canadians are not served with financial services in their communities, contrary to what Canada Post would have us believe.**

We are talking about thousands of communities in Canada whose residents, in order to get to a bank or credit union, are forced to travel very long distances, which costs time and money and stifles economic development particularly of rural Canada. Every post office should offer banking services and we can start by having Canada Post offer financial services in these communities without a bank or credit union. Other countries, that are similar to Canada, such as the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Italy, Japan and New Zealand, have banking services right in their post offices, so people and businesses do not have to travel to do their banking. We also know that Canada Post did its own study last fall (which it has also refused to reveal to the public in its entirety) but which shows that offering financial services would be a "win-win strategy". We believe that, not only are the changes Canada Post is bringing in the wrong way to go, but they were brought in without any real consultation with the public, including citizens, business, unions and communities. We talked to post offices in 2800 communities in our survey. Canada Post talked to only 46 communities, mainly in Conservative ridings before announcing its cuts.

- **We think that Lisa Raitt, the Minister in charge of Canada Post, should first consult with the public about any proposed changes to the post office by launching a postal charter review.**

***"The Charter states, every five years after its adoption they will assess the need to adapt the charter to changing requirements. That time has come; CPAA is demanding that this government honours that commitment and gives every Canadian citizen the opportunity for their voice to be heard. We need accountability from this government. The gutting of the public postal system and the erosion of essential services in rural communities has to stop! A public review of the Canadian Postal Charter is the first step."*** Brenda McAuley, National President, Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association.

- **Postal services are a public service and belong to all Canadians. Help us save Canada Post, stop the cuts and bring in postal banking services!**
- **Write to Lisa Raitt by going to [www.lisaraitt.com](http://www.lisaraitt.com) and sending her a message!**

**Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association ([mail@cpaa-acmpa.ca](mailto:mail@cpaa-acmpa.ca))** We represent over 8,600 employees of Canada Post who work in over 3,300 rural post offices across Canada. These offices make up over 50% of all postal outlets. Our membership, consisting of 95% women, serves communities in every province which rely on our commitment and our jobs where employment opportunities are often limited.

<sup>1</sup> This September 2013 study commissioned by the Prime Minister's office on the possible privatization of Canada Post was recently revealed by Blacklock's Reporter July 2014. .

<sup>2</sup> A Stratcom national survey conducted between April 9th and 10th, 2014, shows 64.4% of Canadians oppose the privatization of Canada Post.