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January 22, 2014

Denis Lemelin (Canadian Union of Postal Workers)

377, rue Bank Street

Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1Y3

Dear Denis Lemelin,

Thank you for copying me on your letter to Minister Raitt outlining your concerns about changes proposed by Canada Post.

As you know, on December 11, 2013, Canada Post announced its plan to eliminate home delivery, cut rural post office hours, drastically increase postage rates and kill thousands of good quality jobs.

New Democrats believe that having a reliable and accessible mail delivery is vital to Canadians. Canada Post has provided critical and essential services for over a century. Instead of looking for ways to modernize operations, Canada Post and the Conservatives are taking an axe to our long-treasured postal service.

Prior to announcing its plan, Canada Post conducted inadequate consultations: on-line and by invitation-only discussions. Seniors with mobility issues, disabled individuals and municipalities are likely to be most affected by the elimination of home delivery services and yet, have not been adequately consulted by Canada Post. Canada would become the first G20 country to eliminate home mail delivery.

Similarly, Canadians on fixed incomes, charity organizations and small businesses will be particularly hit hard by the dramatic price increase, but were not properly consulted. Raising prices and eliminating services will only serve to push more customers away.

Despite claims that Canada Post can no longer afford to provide these services, the Crown Corporation made a \$1.7 billion profit over 15 years prior to 2011, the year when Canada Post workers were locked-out, shutting down its operations and resulting in its first deficit in over 15

years. Profits resumed again in 2012 (\$98 million profit) when mail services were back to normal.

Canada Post can modernize its services without going down the road to privatization. Canada Post should be exploring new ways to find revenue to maintain existing services. A responsible government would consider a range of solutions to improve services and attract new customers, through innovations such as e-commerce and financial services which have shown merit in many countries around the world.

You can count on New Democrats to provide viable solutions. Let's continue to work together to reverse the changes announced by Canada Post.

Thank you again for taking the time to make your voice heard on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jean Crowder, MP
Nanaimo-Cowichan