

October 23, 2014

Transport Canada
Honourable Lisa Raitt
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Raitt,

As a follow up to my letter to you dated January 27, 2014 and your response of March 18, 2014, I am writing on behalf of St. John's City Council to once again express our disappointment and concerns with Canada Post's recent announcement that it will continue to eliminate home delivery, cut good jobs, and reduce rural post office hours, all while drastically increasing postage rates.

This decision by Canada Post will drastically affect Canadian homes and will create huge problems for many of them, especially seniors and people with mobility issues; and will take away the service delivery that Canadians expect and deserve. This will certainly affect how these people will do regular day-to-day transactions and remain connected to the community.

I re-iterate that I do not feel that the consultation process used to solicit input from the public was adequate or appropriate. The consultations were done by either invite-only meetings in various communities and/or online, which may be a convenient way for organizations to solicit input, however it eliminates a large percentage of the population who could not attend or do not have Internet access. By only choosing this method of consultation you have in effect eliminated any opportunity for input from many of the people who are most affected.

Canada Post provides a valuable public service which needs to be protected. I feel quite strongly that these recent announcements and rapidly escalating postage rates are in effect driving residents away from Canada Post to other communication tools.

I am calling upon Canada Post, once again, to reverse these announced changes to services and work instead to ensure they remain a viable postal service in our country. If we don't take steps now, I fear we will soon lose this public service forever.

Yours sincerely,



Dennis O'Keefe,
Mayor

cc. ✓ Denis Lemelin, President
Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Brad Woodside, President - FCM

ST. JOHN'S