COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLEGAR

Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Castlegar held on January 6. 2014, 7:00 p.m. in the Community Forum 445 - 13th Avenue, Castlegar, B.C.

15-14 CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS

Moved and seconded, that Council issue a letter of support as requested by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers opposing the cuts to service as well as the loss of local jobs.

Carried



January 7, 2014

File: 0510-20-C5

1460-01

The Honourable Minister Ms. Lisa Raitt, MP Ministry of Transport House of Commons Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 Canada

Dear Minister Ms. Lisa Raitt, MP:

Re: Concern with Impact of Canada Post Changes to Our Community

I am writing to express our deep concern with the planned cuts to postal services such as the elimination of door-to-door delivery, the large increases in postage rates and the elimination of community post offices that are expected to come about with the changes announced late 2013.

The negative impact of these changes to postal service delivery will be significant to our community.

The loss of door-to-door mail delivery will be a hardship to many, but especially to our aging population. Over 21% of our population are seniors, aged 65 of age or older, compared to 15.6% of BC's population. This hardship will only affect more and more people over time as the percentage of seniors is projected to climb to over 25% in the next ten years in Castlegar.

It is also the elderly on fixed incomes and the disadvantaged without access to a computer or other means of message delivery that will find the large increases in postage rates to be a burden.

Castlegar and Area is further characterized by a high percentage (80%) of people living in detached single family dwellings, accustomed to home mail delivery. It seems inefficient and unfair to now ask these people to now lose this service and individually drive out to a central location for mail-pickup, presumably with limited hours of operation.

This announcement further puts into jeopardy a dozen stable jobs as letter carriers and retail counter positions. These are employment opportunities that uplift a dozen families, provide a vital public service, and help keep our community vibrant.

THE CITY OF CASTLEGAR
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Everyday we face, as a Council, tough decisions about how to spend precious tax dollars and we understand budgetary constraints. However we also understand priorities and we ask you to reconsider these dramatic reductions in postal services as they will negatively affect the quality of life of so many in our community.

Sincerely,

Lawrence D. Chernoff

Mayor

Cc Deepak Chopra, CEO, Canada Post; Alex Atamanenko, MP; Natalie Zeabin, Local CUPW President; Cindy McCallum Miller, Local CUPW Vice President; Castlegar Councillors Rye, McIntosh, Vassilakakis, Turner, Chernoff, Heaton-Sherstobitoff