

September 2, 2008

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Langevin Block  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Stéphane Dion, P.C., M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Jack Layton, P.C., M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Mr. Gilles Duceppe  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister :  
Dear Mr. Dion:  
Dear Mr. Layton:  
Dear Mr. Duceppe:

The Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA), is the bargaining agent that represents the 8318 employees of Canada Post Corporation who work in the Rural Post Offices.

As we are about to enter into the activities of Election 2008, our Association would like to know the position of your party with regards to:

- Maintaining postal services in rural and remote Canadian communities.
- The privatization or deregulation of Canada Post Corporation.
- Expanding products and services in the Post Offices in rural and remote areas.
- Expanding governmental services utilizing the rural postal network.

In view of the fact that a fall election is likely, we would appreciate a response to the above noted issues on a timely basis, in order to communicate your position to our membership.

We respectfully await your reply.

Sincerely,

Leslie A. Schous  
National President  
LAS/DLM/lc

September 10, 2008

Leslie A. Schous  
National President  
CPAA-CPAA  
281 Queen Mary  
Ottawa ON, K1K 1X1

Madam,

You will find enclosed the responses to the questionnaire you recently us sent further to the launch of the 2008 federal election.

We hope that the answers provided will help you better understand our political action.

Sincerely,

Dominic Labrie  
Cabinet of the Chief of the Bloc Québécois  
3730 Crémazie east, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Montréal, QC H2A 1B4

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The Bloc Québécois is firmly opposed to the privatization, even partial, of Canada Post. This Crown Corporation must remain a public body maintaining universal services with uniform tariffs across the country. A privatization of the Canada Post Corporation could lead to the closure of some postal services in rural areas and thus affect the Canadian and Quebecers in remote communities.

The Bloc Québécois also believes that the strategic review currently underway for Canada Post could have a significant impact causing damage to the postal service delivery as we know it today, because it is aimed, among other things, at considering deregulation of this service, which could lead to the reduction or elimination of the exclusive privilege of Canada Post on the "lettermail". This would result in a major consequence: the non-delivery of mail at home for many Quebecers and Canadians. That is why we are firmly opposed to Bill C-14, which aims at the deregulation of the "lettermail".

The Bloc Québécois therefore considers that prior to reducing or eliminating the "exclusive privilege" of Canada Post, the government must hold a public and exhaustive review of the question, including its impact on the obligation to provide a public service that is also universal and affordable to all Quebecers and all Canadians. Similarly, the Bloc Québécois demands that Canada Post restores and maintains the rural service while respecting the laws, including the Canada Labour Code. In this context, we support the continuation of the moratorium on the closure of post offices.

The Bloc Québécois is totally favorable to Canada Post increasing the number of post offices in rural areas and enhancing government services while using the rural postal network.

Liberal Party of Canada  
81 Metcalfe Street, Suite 400  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6M8

September 15, 2008

Ms. Leslie A. Schous  
National President  
Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association  
281 Queen Mary  
Ottawa, ON K1K 1X1

Dear Ms. Schous:

I am writing on behalf of the Honourable Stéphane Dion, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, to thank you for your letter of September 2, 2008, in which you request information regarding rural postal services. I appreciate the opportunity to outline the Liberal Party's position regarding this important issue.

As you may be aware, the Liberal Party has a long history of fighting to maintain rural and remote mail service. In the eighties, we fought the Mulroney Conservatives' decision to close rural post offices. In 1993, a Liberal government imposed a moratorium on rural post office closures.

The Liberal Party has committed to working with rural and remote residents to ensure they are fairly consulted regarding the future of their mailbox service. On October 25, 2006, Liberals brought forward a motion calling on the Conservative government to allow Canada Post to maintain traditional rural and remote mail delivery- the motion passed unanimously in the House of Commons; however no significant action has been taken by the Conservative government.

Unfortunately, the Conservatives are ignoring the issue and the voice of rural Canadians. Their approach is to let Canada Post shut down rural mailboxes prior to any type of safety assessment.

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With regards to the issue of privatization or deregulation of Canada Post Corporation, the Liberal Party does not support its privatization and/or deregulation.

Allow me to assure you that Liberals will continue to fight any reductions in rural and remote mail service.

Once again, thank you for your letter. I appreciate the opportunity to re-affirm our commitment to this important service.

Sincerely,

Doug Ferguson  
President, Liberal Party of Canada





**NDP**

**Jack Layton's New Democrats**  
Putting you and your family first.

September 19, 2008

**RE: Questionnaire**

Attached please find the response of Canada's New Democrats to your 2008 Election questionnaire. It is the policy of our party to respond on behalf of all New Democrat candidates.

Our full platform will be released shortly and our web site is updated with all of our latest information. To find out more, we encourage you to consult: [www.ndp.ca](http://www.ndp.ca)

Thank you for your interest in the views of Canada's New Democrats on the critical issues facing Canadians.

We appreciate your efforts to help voters make an informed decision on voting day.

Sincerely,

Jack Layton  
Leader of Canada's New Democrats

## **Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association**

New Democrats believe that deregulation could result in raising prices, reducing service, a loss of jobs, hurting the environment and reducing the security and privacy of the mail. The NDP is committed to continue to work with like-minded groups like yours to stop the Conservative government's push for de-regulation.

New Democrats are also against Bill C-14's partial deregulation of Canada Post and its removing of international letters from Canada Post's exclusive privilege to deliver letters. New Democrats believe that C-14 will make it increasingly difficult for our public post office to provide affordable service to everyone, no matter where they live, if the government erodes the very mechanism that funds universal postal service.

NDP MP Peter Julian has worked with international partners and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers on the threats posed by international trade agreements on public institutions - most recently seen in United Postal Service's failed claims that it received unfair treatment by Canada's national postal system. Julian has introduced proposed legislation that would call for the re-negotiation of NAFTA's Chapter 11 which opens up our public institutions to these threats, and he is working in conjunction with American Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) in the U.S. congress and Mexican policymakers on the issue.

New Democrat Leader Jack Layton has met with representatives of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers regarding opposition to C-14 and NDP MP David Christopherson has worked with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers in opposing the Conservatives' legislation.

New Democrats believe that post offices are a vital institution in Canada. Across the country, post offices in centres small, rural and remote act as a vital means of communication, commerce and community. Maintenance of these outlets and the expansion of our public post office system where required is the best solution to increase services for all Canadians.

New Democrats are open to working with all interested groups in improving the services offered at Canada Post. We believe that our public post office has proven itself to be the best and most efficient means of delivery of all types of letters and packages and as such would be open to investigating new areas where service could be improved or expanded for Canada Post.