

Original letter to MACLEAN'S

April 3, 2006

MACLEAN'S Magazine
One Mount Pleasant Road
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Toronto, ON
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Letter to the Editor:

Gosh, that's brutal language and harsh analysis in your editorial on our campaign to make the public post office more transparent and accountable.

Your editorial screams "toxic relationship," even though this has not been the case for almost a decade. CUPW has worked hard to be part of the solution to post office problems. Labour relations have improved. So has service. Our public post office currently has an international reputation for quality service at affordable rates, no small feat in a country this size.

You charge us with "halting progress." Yet what we are asking for – that Canada Post let the public have more information and input about post office and plant closures - is what many members of Parliament and hundreds of municipalities called for after Canada Post Corporation started closing post offices and announced the shut-down of its Quebec City postal plant last summer.

Also, your research is inaccurate regarding the decline of physical mail because of internet technology. Canada Post has predicted that decline since 1997, yet there is still more mail being delivered today than there was then. Canada Post's profitability calls into question the need for major cuts to plants and post offices.

Your editorial lectures about the need for "major changes to the business model" of Canada Post, as if it were Starbucks instead of a public service that links this vast land with a strong infrastructure that allows communities to thrive and businesses to grow.

You mock our members, for making demands on the system when they already

have decent jobs. I suggest the business model that pervades MACLEAN'S is partly at fault here. Your radar just hasn't room for public sector workers, who care about the service they provide and would like to open up the decision-making so that the interests of all are served.

Oh, and maybe next time a call to the Union for comment would be appropriate?

Deborah Bourque
National President
Canadian Union of Postal Workers

CUPW Member Responds: Letter to the Editor in the April 17, 2006 issue

I have been a letter carrier for over 12 years and I am actually delivering more mail now than when I first started. Canada Post's own numbers, which they provide to the union every year, clearly show mail volumes have been increasing in recent years along with points of call (addresses).

Your article failed to mention that the corporation has made almost \$1 billion in the last 10 years, despite covering major financial losses from other companies it owns. Now the new CEO and president Moya Greene finds this profit margin unacceptable.

What Greene forgets is that Canada Post is a Crown corporation with a mandate to provide the best affordable service for all Canadians, no matter where they live. Canada post is obliged to run its business as an open book; not to do so would be to hide its agenda from its shareholders and the people of Canada, including all 54, 000 postal workers.

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