

Minister of State
Transport



Ministre d'État
Transports

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

MAR 26 2010

Mr. Denis Lemelin
National President
Canadian Union of Postal Workers
377 Bank Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 1Y3

Dear Mr. Lemelin:

I am writing in response to your correspondence of February 17, 2010, regarding the rural moratorium on the closure of rural post offices and the Independent Review of the Canada Post Corporation.

As I indicated in earlier correspondence to you on this issue, the federal government has considered the recommendations of the Independent Review Panel. This has resulted in the development of the government's view pertaining to postal issues and the role Canada Post plays, and it has led to the development of the Canadian Postal Service Charter. As you are aware, the government has no intention of privatizing Canada Post at this time. This includes employee ownership.

With respect to the applicability of the rural moratorium, the Charter recognizes that the provision of postal services to rural communities is an integral part of Canada Post's universal service. The moratorium on the closure of rural post offices has therefore been maintained as is.

I understand that the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Chief Negotiator will be responding to your concerns related to postal services and the comprehensive economic agreement between Canada and the European Union.

Canada

Thank you for writing and for providing me with your views.

Sincerely,



Hon. Rob Merrifield, P.C., M.P.