



Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC

Representing seniors in British Columbia since 1950

www.coscobc.org

Commissioner William Kaplan
Hearing for Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Industrial Inquiry Commission
edsc.cdi-iic.esdc@labour-travail.gc.ca

February 12, 2025

Dear Commissioner Kaplan

Re: Input into your review of Canada Post's financial situation from a seniors lens

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input from the point of view of seniors in British Columbia. The Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO BC) is the largest independent non-partisan seniors group in the provinces, with 70 affiliated organizations collectively representing over 80,000 seniors and retirees. We are affiliated with the National Pensioners' Federation which has invited us to provide input.

We ask you to consider the following points as you prepare your report.

1. COSCO BC members with a Defined Benefit Pension Plan tend to have a more secure retirement than do our members with other types of pensions or no workplace pension. This is why we are asking you to recommend that the ***CUPW retirees along with current and future employees maintain their Canada Post Defined Pension Benefit Plan***
2. Many COSCO BC members rely upon Canada Post to receive important documents including bills and parcels in the mail. It is important that seniors all across BC and Canada have a decent postal service. This is why we are asking you to ***recommend that Canada Post remain a universal public service.***
3. Similarly, it would negatively impact seniors in rural and remote parts of BC if they had to pay more for the same postal service that people in Metro Vancouver and other urban areas receive. This is why we are asking you to ***recommend that the exclusive privilege Canada Post has to deliver first class letters*** be maintained. We want all seniors to pay the same price for postal service no matter where they live.
4. Many seniors rely on door-to-door delivery. Removing door to door delivery from seniors who already have it would hurt those with mobility challenges along with older (80 years of age and plus) seniors who are no longer able to drive. We ***recommend continuing door to door delivery.***

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5. COSCO BC supports ***creating a senior check in service.***
Senior check-ins could bring peace of mind to loved ones and relatives who don't live nearby. Japan, France and Jersey in the British Isles currently offer effective and successful senior check-in services through their national postal services. Door-to-door postal workers are already watchful for signs that something isn't quite right.

They could be allotted extra time on their routes to simply check in on seniors or people with mobility issues who sign up for the service to make sure everything is okay and deliver peace of mind. This would help seniors age in place in their own homes and their own communities.

6. In rural and remote communities, postal services are critical to seniors. The moratorium on the closure of post offices in these communities has benefitted seniors. This is why we are ***asking that this moratorium be continued.***
7. COSCO is aware that some rural and remote communities are losing their financial services. This is very difficult on some seniors who may not feel confident banking over the internet. This is why COSCO is asking you ***to recommend that banking/financial services be provided by Canada Post*** in these communities.

Thank you for considering our submission to inform your work on these issues. Your work so important to ensure that seniors can age-in-place in our communities and receive vital information in paper formats no matter where we live in Canada.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie Gaudette
President

cc. Trish McAuliffe, President, National Pensioners' Federation
Dan Levitt, Seniors Advocate, Province of British Columbia
Marion Pollack, COSCO Delegate