



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Dr. Colin Carrie

Member of Parliament - Oshawa
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment

Dear Council,

I would like to thank you for forwarding me the resolution passed by Oshawa City Council on April 28th, 2014, regarding Canada Post.

As Council may know, Canada Post is an arms-length Crown Corporation, and is solely responsible for its operations, including business and financial decisions. Their decision will require communication, collaboration and consultation with affected communities, and Canada Post will be working with municipalities on all the issues that affect them.

Currently two thirds of Canadian Households do not receive mail delivery at home. The advent of the Internet and email has drastically changed how Canadians communicate. Due to the lack of demand, mail volumes have dropped almost 25% per address since 2008 and continue to fall; in fact, one billion fewer pieces of mail are now being mailed. This is leading to a steep decline in revenues for Canada Post. Given this scenario, it is reasonable to conclude that changes are inevitable as a result of the opportunities that technological advantages are providing to Canadians. The City of Oshawa itself, through the use of email and on-line electronic payments to save money, contributes to the decline in Canada Post revenues. Since 1981, Canada Post has had a mandate to operate on a self-sustaining financial basis and they believe the changes they have made will help to ensure it is on solid financial footing and better reflects Canadians' choices.

Unfortunately, the resolution adopted by Council which seeks to maintain the status quo does not offer any solutions to the huge losses currently being incurred. Furthermore, the resolution does not address the projection that at the current and projected volumes, Canada Post would lose \$1 billion by 2020. It is an unfair expectation for Council to expect Canadians and Oshawa taxpayers to subsidize this shortfall – particularly when many residents of Oshawa currently do not receive home delivery.

I would also like to address the premise in the resolution that responsibilities, costs, and liabilities to local governments, such as paving, lighting, snow removal, and policing related to vandalism and mail theft will be downloaded on the municipalities. I would like to point out that Canada Post acknowledges that it is their responsibility to maintain the Community Mailboxes (CMB) infrastructure, from snow removal to dealing with rare incidences of vandalism. They maintain CMBs through a combination of prevention measures and ongoing maintenance. Many

Parliamentary Office

Room 410, Justice Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-996-4756
Fax.: 613-992-1357



colin.carrie@parl.gc.ca
www.colincarriemp.ca

Constituency Office

57 Simcoe Street South Unit 2B
Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 4G4
Tel.: 905-440-4868
Fax: 905-440-4872

of the solutions have been jointly and successfully developed by Canada Post and municipalities over the 30 years that CMBs have been in use. As CMB usage expands, Canada Post will, as needed, work with municipalities on developing other mutually beneficial processes.

I would caution Council to be more vigilant with the accuracy of information used for their premises in their resolutions and to be more critical of their sources. As such, I also recommend that Council contact Canada Post directly to ensure that they have all the facts available. This will ensure that future resolutions are based off accurate information and balanced.

Thank you again for taking the time to forward me this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colin Carrie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "C".

Dr. Colin Carrie, M.P. – Oshawa
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment