



210 Aberdeen Rd.
Bridgewater, NS
B4V 4G8

PHONE 902-543-8181
FAX 902-543-7123

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

October 20, 2014

The Honourable Lisa Raitt
Minister of Transport
Place de Ville, Tower C, 29th Floor
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Raitt:

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg received correspondence from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers requesting the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg to support their efforts to oppose Canada Post's plan for cuts, or calling for a halt to door-to-door delivery cuts until there is proper consultation.

Municipal Councillors, in session on October 7, 2014, made a motion that the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg write a letter to the Minister responsible for Canada Post to call on the government to reverse the changes to services announced by Canada Post, to look instead for ways to increase service and revenues in areas such as postal banking, and to express the Municipality's concerns that have been expressed in the past, including the importance of consultation with the public.

The Municipality does not support the changes that were made and are still being made to the rural postal service delivery and has expressed its concerns in numerous correspondence to Canada Post and your office dating back to 2009. One of the biggest concerns put forth was the lack of consultation with the public with regard to the review and the changes to postal services.

For example, the Municipality was requested by the citizens of the Municipality to host a public meeting to express their concerns and get clarification with regard to the Rural Mailbox Delivery Review. A meeting was held on September 8, 2009. Gerald Keddy, MP for South Shore – St. Margaret's Bay, attended that meeting as the citizens' federal government representative and took copies of all the comments received at that meeting as well as ones forwarded after the meeting to his contact at Canada Post. The local Provincial MLAs also attended that meeting. Not in attendance were representatives from Canada Post. The lack of communication with the public with regard to the changes to the postal services (i.e. increasing of postage rates; the closure, downsizing and reduction of hours of rural post offices; and the location of the community mailboxes) is still a concern.

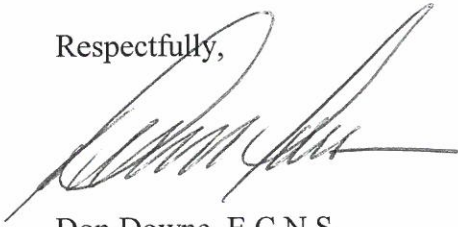
Minister Raitt
October 20, 2014
Page 2

It is important to discuss the location of the community mailboxes with the public to ensure they are easily accessed by those that have to pick up their mail. The installation of these community mailboxes on private roads has caused some problems for residents. (For example: There is a situation in Lunenburg County on Botany Lane in the community of Conquerall Mills. Individuals who live between civic numbers 1020 to 1058 were told they were not welcome to access their mailboxes because Botany Lane is a private road just for homeowners in the Botany Woods subdivision). Another issue relating to the location of the mailboxes is that in some locations residents do not have a turn-around spot for vehicles. As a result, there are safety issues with the vehicles having to back up into traffic.

Mail delivery is a critical service to our seniors and mobility-challenged residents and the removal of door-to-door rural mail delivery has created a negative impact on their ability to get their mail.

Our Council respectfully requests that you work with Canada Post to find a solution to these issues.

Respectfully,



Don Downe, E.C.N.S.
Mayor

/sac

c.c. Denis Lemelin, President, Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Gerald Keddy, MP, South Shore – St. Margaret's
Brad Woodside, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Betty MacDonald, Executive Director, UNSM