



The Union  
of Nova Scotia  
Municipalities

**OUR MISSION**  
The UNSM is the collective voice  
of municipal government  
in Nova Scotia

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## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **UNSM Concerned Canada Post Decision Will Severely Impact Seniors and the Disabled**

Halifax, December 17, 2013: The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) is concerned with Canada Post's recent decision to phase out home delivery of mail in favour of community mailboxes over the next five years.

"We are particularly concerned with our seniors and disabled who may not be able to physically access a community mailbox or who may not have the financial capacity to hire someone to get their mail in a timely manner", stated UNSM President Mayor David Corkum.

When Canada Post announced in 2009 a gradual changeover in rural areas to community mailboxes, the UNSM passed a number of resolutions supported unanimously by the membership to halt this process. Unfortunately this fell on deaf ears.

While the UNSM recognizes the financial challenges facing Canada Post with a shift to online correspondence and bill payments, the Federal Government still has a social responsibility to ensure that the physically challenged are able to receive their mail in a timely fashion.

"Given the clear mandate of Canada Post to phase out home delivery of mail, we would strongly suggest that the Federal Government initiate a fully funded program that would enable those physically challenged to hire a person to retrieve their mail", Corkum further stated.

The UNSM will continue efforts with its members, other municipal associations and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to lobby for a federal program that will ensure timely mail delivery for seniors and the disabled community.

*The UNSM is a non-profit organization representing the Provincial interests of municipal governments across Nova Scotia since 1906. Total membership is 412 elected officials representing all 54 municipalities.*