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December 9, 2010

The Honourable Chuck Strahl
Minister Responsible for Canada Post
2701 Riverside Drive N1150
Ottawa ON K1A 0B1

Dear Minister Strahl:

I am writing on behalf of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) to request a reversal of Canada Post's decision to privatize and eventually close the National Philatelic Centre in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

As you are aware, Canada Post recently announced the privatization of its National Philatelic Centres including elimination of all term positions. Canada Post has further indicated it will be closing the Antigonish National Philatelic Centre after 2012. The only reason in delaying the closure is due to current collective agreements which protect permanent employees until 2012.

Canada Post plays a vital role in the economic and social development of communities, particularly in rural Canada.

The National Philatelic Centre in Antigonish is recognized worldwide for its specialized services and contributes to the preservation of Canada's history and culture. The closure of this centre will eliminate 65 jobs and result in less spending power in the community. This could lead to reduced employee hours for other businesses and potentially even further job losses.

For the last fifteen years, Canada Post has been a profitable Crown Corporation. In 2009 alone it generated a profit of \$281 million.

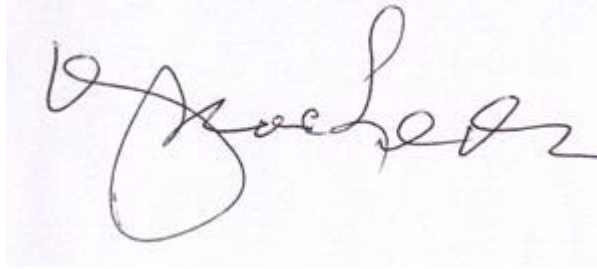
Given its current fiscal outlook, Canada Post is unjustified in closing the national philatelic centres. The economic, social and cultural importance of the philatelic centre to Antigonish cannot be understated.

To this end, I have asked the Honourable Peter MacKay, Member of Parliament for Central Nova, to discuss this matter with you directly.

Maintaining the operation of the philatelic centre in Antigonish is of vital importance to the economy of this community.

For these reasons, I respectfully request you take appropriate action to reverse this decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billy Joe MacLean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Mayor Billy Joe MacLean
UNSM President

cc: The Honourable Peter MacKay, M.P., Central Nova
Stewart Bacon, President and CEO, Canada Post
Canada Post Board of Directors
UNSM Board of Directors
Mayor Carl Chisholm, Town of Antigonish
Warden Herb Delorey, County of Antigonish
Brock Carlton, CEO, Federation of Canadian Municipalities