



UNSM

DEC 20 2010

HOUSE OF COMMONS / CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

The Hon. Peter G. MacKay, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Member of Parliament / Député Central Nova  
Minister of National Defence  
Ministre de la Défense nationale

DEC 17 2010

Mayor Billy Joe MacLean  
UNSM President  
Suite 1106, 1809 Barrington Street  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 3K8

*Billy Joe*

Dear Mayor MacLean,

I thank you for your correspondence received in my Antigonish constituency office on December 10, 2010 regarding the National Philatelic Centre.

I have met with representatives of the National Philatelic Centre and as a result of that meeting have brought the concerns of the group to the attention of the Hon. Rob Merrifield, Minister of State. I must however stress that Canada Post is an independent crown corporation that operates at arms length from the government and makes its own operating decision separate from the government.

Canada Post calls the eventual closing of the call centre in Antigonish a difficult but necessary move prompted by declining mail volume and revenue as well as high call centre operating costs. I have been advised that the 49 full and part-time permanent call centre employees have job security. Over time as these employees leave or retire, Canada Post would move more and more of these positions until all of the call centre work would be done at the new service provider. This restructuring means that all permanent employees will continue to have a job at Canada Post. Almost a full year's notice has been given to the 11 contract workers who will not have their contracts renewed. This gives these workers close to a year of pay and benefits while they transition into other jobs. It should be noted also that Canada Post has a provision in the collective agreement with UPCE which allows employees to come forward with proposals to the employer.

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There are concerns that a closure like this one, even if it is a few years down the road and is being done by attrition will affect businesses. I have worked hard and continue to work with our Government to bring new opportunities to our communities that will benefit workers and their families.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter MacKay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Peter MacKay, PC, QC, MP  
Central Nova  
PMacK/jea