



Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario

www.cwdo.org

“Together We Are Stronger”

1201 Jasper Drive, Box 103, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 6R2
807-473-0909 (voice) or pat.seed@tbaytel.net

January 8, 2014

Canada Post
Attn: Customer Service
35 Hughes St.
Fredericton NB E3A 2W2

Dear Mr. Chopra;

Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario (CWDO) is committed to the rights of all persons to participate fully in the civil, cultural, economic, political and social life of our communities. CWDO actively promotes the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of persons with disabilities through community development, social action, and member support and referral. Our primary activity is public education and awareness about the social and physical barriers that prevent the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in Ontario.

CWDO has approximately 2000 members in almost all political writings in Ontario. The majority of our members are persons with disabilities.

CWDO has recently become aware of Canada Post's decision to stop door-to-door service of mail delivery. We support the position of the Council for Canadians with Disabilities on this issue and share their concerns regarding this decision. Although, we understand the financial realities faced by Canada Post, we must also point out that people with disabilities are taxpayers too and rely on the service to live independently within their own communities.

We do not believe that Canada Post has done an adequate job in consulting with the public regarding this decision. We are concerned about the adverse impact this will have on people with disabilities, particularly those that are unable to leave their homes in order to get their mail from a community mailbox.

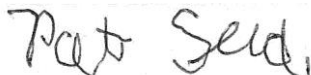
We recommend the following options for your consideration:

1. Canada Post should develop a more comprehensive communications strategy with the disabled community regarding the future of door-to-door postal services. As an organization, CWDO has the ability to host webinars which allow individuals to come together from across the Province of Ontario – or all of Canada – to discuss a wide range of topics. We would be pleased to work with Canada Post to support public consultation on this important issue.
2. Canada Post should develop a mail retrieval strategy which would allow individuals with severe disabilities access to their mail without having to leave their homes. We therefore further recommend that Canada Post be directed to work with individuals who are unable to retrieve their e-mail independently from their community mailbox to find an alternate way to provide mail service delivery for these individuals at home.
3. Canada Post should take steps to educate persons with disabilities on how to use e-Post and other electronic approaches in order to receive their mail. We believe Canada Post could develop an educational tool to train people with disabilities to use computers and other devices to receive their mail. We therefore further recommend that during the transition, Canada Post support the cost of Internet service for low income individuals with disabilities.

We are relying on your commitment to human rights and good judgment to ensure equitable service for people with disabilities.

Please let us know how you intend to ensure that people with disabilities will not be unfairly disadvantaged by any measures you decide to put in place to reduce postal service to Canadians. Again, if CWDO can be of any assistance in supporting broader consultation and/or implementation approaches, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Pat Seed
Chair
Citizens with Disabilities – Ontario

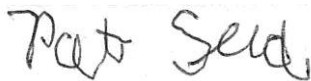
Communication Release
Canada Post decision to halt door-to-door delivery of the mail

CWDO has concerns regarding a recent decision by Canada Post to phase out door-to-door delivery of the mail over the next five years. As an organization we believe that persons with disabilities should have access to community service such as mail delivery because it offers us a level of independence and the ability to look out after our own affairs.

CWDO has recently sent a letter to Mr. Deepak Chopra, CEO Canada Post making several recommendations to improve the consultation process with persons with disabilities as well as developing strategies to ensure that people with severe disabilities still have access to their mail.

We hope that all CWDO members take an interest in this issue and contact their local Member of Parliament to express their concern regarding the lack of consultation this proposal as currently received.

For further information please contact Scott Allardyce, Secretary CWDO at scottanne@rogers.com

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Seed". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Pat Seed, Chairperson