



Canadian Postmasters
and
Assistants Association



l'Association canadienne
des maîtres
de poste et adjoints

Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut Branch - Section de l'Alberta, Territoires du Nord-Ouest et Nunavut

Dear Sir or Madam

Since 1902 the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA) have fought for the rights of the rural post office employees and for the full access to postal services for all rural Canadians. Our struggles have focused on employment equity, pay equity, various benefits and the fight against rural post office closures.

With the release of the Kaplan inquiry and the recommendations for CPC to lift the moratorium against post office closures by the Industrial Inquiry Commission, All CPAA members are struck with great fear of our future.

I am a rural Postmaster in Northern Alberta. I can tell you with 100% accuracy that I love my job, my community, my customers, and would not choose any other career for myself.

The rural post office is the heartbeat of all communities, a gathering place, a place to find out what is going on, a place to meet your friends, have a catch up, solve the world's problems, best wishes, condolences, congratulations, and sometimes the only person someone talks to all day.

More often than not, post offices in villages and hamlets have buildings supplied by their postmasters as part of their hire stipulation and CPC pays a nominal amount of rent for the use of the premises. (Between \$113.08 - \$535.83 a month) It is very common that these (group) offices end up taking monies from their pay to cover the overhead to provide the office for their communities. Lately we have been seeing their communities stepping up to help subsidize the cost of maintaining a building to keep a post office in their rural communities.

With the release of the Kaplan Inquiry, they are pushing for more CMBs (community mailboxes) in fact that is what CPC tells communities they can have if their postmaster retires! I want everyone to know that all rural communities have a voice and these voices must get loud and fight for a post office to remain open in their community. A customer living 3 kms north of town is just as important as a businessman in the middle of Red Deer.

There are 3075 post offices across Canada that are represented by CPAA and employ more than 8500 members. Our area is Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, we have 280 offices that employ 587 members currently. We are a board of 6 Postmasters from all over Alberta that have been elected into our positions. I am the President and I work from home and on the road. The other 5 members work in their offices as well as do CPAA when they are available. There are several unions within CPC, most people only hear about CUPW, which are the depot workers, letter carriers, RSMCs . They are the union that is fighting for their rights and demands and are on the verge of a strike for the second time in a year. CPAA does not strike, we have always had a No-Strike clause in our collective agreement. We continue to work the front lines and help rural Canada.

I am asking for members of Alberta to send a letter to your MPs and simply say NO WE WANT TO SAVE OUR POST OFFICE. Send a message to your RM/ Village/ Town office asking them to reach out to their Postmasters and let them know about Canada Posts offer of CMBs in your town, they will in turn reach out to us CPAA, and we can attend your community and present what your rural community can do to help.

No CMBs we want to save (keep) our post offices.

We are only strong if we all help each other out!

Sincerely,

Alberta Northwest Territories and Nunavut CPAA

Xan Moffatt-Toews President Postmaster/ Fairview, Ab

Gerry Henry Vice President Postmaster/ Warner, Ab

Kathy Simmons Sec. Trea. Postmaster/ Islay, Ab

Arlene Baird Director Postmaster/ Nisku, AB

Karen Luger Director Postmaster /Lamont, Al

John Pelley Director Postmaster /Fort MacLeod, AB

