

December 4, 2024



The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Services and Procurement
11 Laurier St, Portage III, Place du Portage
Gatineau, QC K1A 0S5

RE: Canada Post Strike

Dear Minister Duclos,

As we move into the busiest season of the year for small businesses, charities and non-profits, the impact of the ongoing Canada Post strike is costing the Peterborough-Kawartha Chamber of Commerce's members. Business and organizations rely on Canada Post to ship merchandise, manage ecommerce transactions, and connect with year-end donors. The holiday season is critical as fundraising and sales during this period often determining financial viability for the year ahead.

Small businesses are the cornerstone of our local economy. The labour dispute is particularly detrimental to small businesses, as an estimated 80% rely on Canada Post for parcel delivery, invoicing, and receiving payments. The Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses estimates that nationally, the strike is costing small- and medium-sized businesses \$76.6 million per day. Locally, it's costing businesses in the Peterborough region approximately \$227,000 a day, with an estimated cumulative impact of nearly \$3 million so far.

Canada Post's investment in direct mail tools allows organizations to efficiently use their limited resources to target specific neighbourhoods to reach customers and clients. This is especially invaluable in more sparsely populated rural communities like Peterborough and the Kawarthas where we have nearly 4,000 businesses servicing an area of 4,000 square kilometres.

Direct mail is the preferred donation method among older Canadians. People aged 55+ make up 33% of our population, but account for 54% of charitable donors. Due to the labour disruption, charities who provide critical services in our region are bracing for a significant drop in donations.

"This time of year is when many charities raise 30% to 60% of their annual donations, with December being a particularly critical month," states Lesley Heighway, President & CEO of Peterborough Regional Health Centre Foundation and Board Member of the Peterborough & Kawarthas Chamber of Commerce. "Charities depend on Canada Post to reach supporters through mailed fundraising appeal letters, which not only bring in mailed donations but also drive online giving — up to 60% of online donations are inspired by mail appeals. With the mail disruption, charities are now experiencing a significant drop in revenue, which could make it hard for them to provide essential services to the Canadians who rely on them."

We strongly urge the Government of Canada to act swiftly to find a fair resolution to this dispute and mitigate further damage to our communities. Restoring reliable postal services is essential to safeguarding the vital contributions and success of non-profits, charities, and small businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Wiebe".

Joel Wiebe
Vice President, Government Relations & Operations

CC:

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada

Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister

Honourable Rechie Valdez, P.C., M.P., Minister of Small Business

Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development

Michelle Ferreri, Member of Parliament for Peterborough—Kawartha

Philip Lawrence, Member of Parliament for Northumberland—Peterborough South

Jamie Schmale, Member of Parliament for Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock

Candace Laing, President & CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Daniel Tisch, President & CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce