

For seven months, instead of engaging in serious bargaining, Canada Post has stubbornly insisted on huge contract rollbacks. The company demand for a 22% cut in pay for new hires, its drive to gut the sick leave program won through difficult bargaining in previous agreements, and many other concessionary proposals, have nothing to do with preserving the financial viability of Canada Post. If the company was serious about this claim, it would have acted on the many valuable proposals raised in recent years by CUPW to improve the postal service for Canadians. Indeed, Canada Post has turned a profit every year for the past 16 years – hardly a picture of impending financial crisis and ruin!



Instead of tearing down Canada's mail delivery system and attacking the postal workers who provide this vital public service, the federal government and Canada Post must be compelled to negotiate a fair collective agreement with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. Through their reckless actions, Canada Post management and the Harper Tories are on the brink of forcing the shutdown of postal delivery.

# Canada Post: Stop Fomenting a Shutdown and Negotiate a Fair Collective Agreement with CUPW

for the private corporations which seek to take over all postal delivery operations in Canada.

The Communist Party demands that instead of making outrageous statements about the potential costs of paying decent wages to postal workers, the management of Canada Post withdraw its anti-worker demands and bargain a fair collective agreement with its employees. Instead of encouraging Canada Post to

continue down this dangerous path, the Harper government must be compelled to live up to its responsibilities to guarantee affordable and reliable mail service to Canadians in all regions, in rural and urban areas alike.

*Central Executive Committee,  
Communist Party of Canada  
June 1, 2011*

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**T**he negotiating position of Canada Post has the fingerprint of the Harper government and its pro-corporate, anti-worker policies all over it. This attack is part of a much wider corporate/government assault on the overall wages, pensions and working conditions of both public and private sector employees across Canada, indeed across the entire capitalist world. This is yet another example of the corporate drive to boost profits by slashing the wages and pensions of working people.

Despite claims to the contrary, the shutdown of Canada Post operations as a result of management intransigence would deal a harsh blow against thousands of small businesses and their employees across the country. For the company to make dismissive comments that ‘there’s plenty of time to negotiate’ – as Jon Hamilton, Canada Post’s director of communications, told CBC on May 30 – is a slap in the face for both customers and postal workers.



*Winnipeg posties on picket lines – June 3, 2011*

The very next day, after CUPW tabled serious new proposals to avert a shutdown, a Canada Post bargaining committee took less than ten minutes to reject the union’s final offer in its entirety. This rejection signals that Canada Post and the Harper Tories are spoiling for a fight, hoping for an opportunity to inflict major damage on the labour movement and on working people across Canada. We can expect to see an escalation of intense and hateful attacks on postal workers by right-wing politicians and the corporate media. The aim of these anti-labour forces is to whip up anger against postal workers, to divide working people and set the stage for the break-up of Canada Post and the full privatization of this crucial public asset. The end result of this strategy can only be a much poorer mail system, higher costs for customers, lower wages and more dangerous working conditions, and bigger profits

*...continued on back*

May 15, 2011

Denis Lemelin, President  
Canadian Union of Postal Workers

**Dear Brother Lemelin,  
Sisters and Brothers:**

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers has been in negotiations for several months with Canada Post, but has been unable to secure a collective agreement because of the employers intransigence of the issues of job security and contracting out, among other things. In fact Canada Post, and its boss the Harper government, are intent on privatizing the post office and they recognize that UPW is the most immediate obstacle to their privatization aims.

In mid-April, CUPW took a strike vote and secured the support of 94.5%, showing the unity and militancy of CUPW members and their union from coast to coast to coast.

We are proud to support CUPW and its fight to keep the post office public, a fight it has taken up on behalf of its members and all Canadians. For many years CUPW has led the fight in the public sector for job security, for decent wages and working conditions, for a strong militant and membership driven union, and for a united and fighting labour movement.

In the event CUPW is forced to strike, or is locked out, the Communist Party will be there to support striking of locked out postal workers,, and to continue to demand that Canada Post sit down and negotiate a fair collective agreement and end its campaign to privatize Canada’s public post office.

We call on all Canadians who care about a public post office, to stand in support of the union and its fight to secure a fair collective agreement, and to stop privatization of Canada Post.

*Central Executive Committee  
Communist Party of Canada*