CUPW Pacific Region: Representing British Columbia & the Yukon



BULLETIN

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Delivery of Socio-Economic Cheques During the Labour Dispute

As CUPW members and postal workers, we are facing an incredibly difficult time. Like many of you, I have mixed feelings about delivering socio-economic cheques while we're in this struggle with both our employer, Canada Post, and the federal government.

We are watching government representatives, Carney, Lightbound, and Hajdu, publicly claim they support postal workers, while at the same time spreading misinformation about our Union and ordering Canada Post to table inadequate offers. Meanwhile, Canada Post management continues to blame the Union and the workers for their own shortfalls.

Let's not forget the facts: it wasn't the Union or the workers who turned away Amazon as a customer, not once, but twice, most recently in 2023. Nor was it the Union that rejected a major Lululemon contract or encouraged customers to shift to Purolator over the last 20 months.

And speaking of Purolator, over 90% of Purolator is owned by Canada Post. Yet this fact is conveniently avoided by the media and government. If Canada Post were to sell its stake in Purolator, it could operate debt-free while maintaining public service for Canadians, instead of focusing on profit-driven restructuring.

The government has also lifted protections for rural post offices, leaving behind the very communities no one else serves. Purolator, FedEx, UPS, even Amazon — none of them deliver to those remote areas. They rely on Canada Post to reach those who live outside the cities, because for them, it isn't profitable, but for us, it's about service to the people.

The Union has never opposed weekend parcel delivery. In fact, it's been in our contract for years. The problem is not the workers or the Union; it's management's refusal to use the tools already available to improve service and revenue.

Now, as we await the full analysis from our National Representatives and the Bargaining Committee on the latest offers, we must recognize that Canada Post's proposals mirror or roll back the ones already rejected by over 70% of the membership. These so-called "new" offers add insult to injury.

So yes, I understand the anger and frustration. I feel it too. But when it comes to delivering socioeconomic cheques, I ask myself: "Do I really want to lower myself to the level of those who are harming the people in our communities, the very people who rely on us the most?"

Those cheques are lifelines for seniors, people with disabilities, families, and community members struggling to make ends meet. For many, it means keeping a roof over their head or food in their stomachs. We cannot allow our employer's actions to punish them as collateral damage in this dispute.

So, while I completely understand and respect anyone's decision not to deliver, I also encourage those who can volunteer to deliver these cheques. Do it not for our Union or management or the government, but for the people in our communities who depend on them.

Let's show that our fight is for the public good, for a postal service that serves everyone, not for profit.

In solidarity, and with deep respect for every member's choice.

Troy Coburn
Regional Education & Organization Officer