

Where's the common sense at Canada Post

In Canada Post, we have a Crown corporation with a near monopoly in some areas. And yet it is becoming increasingly irrelevant in the lives of most of its customers. But instead of working furiously to find ways to recover some of that lost relevance, the two parties sat on the brink of stopping service until this week because they could not sort out their labour troubles.

That's called cutting off your nose to spite your face.

We do not typically wade into labour disputes, in part because the right and wrong are often a matter of perspective and where you stand.

But this case is different in that while Canada Post is not an arm of the government, it exists, or should exist, entirely to serve Canadians. Also, rather than observing that one side or the other is wrong, the truth in this case is that both are wrong.

It's not that there are no legitimate issues. One amounts to a pay equity matter according to CUPW, in that the rural postal workforce largely female is paid by piecework whereas urban carriers are paid a daily wage.

This results in rural workers earning an average of 28 per cent less than urban workers, according to the union. Canada Post says that isn't true but hasn't provided proof by opening its books.

On the issue of pensions it's the union that is on shaky ground. It is fighting implementation of a defined contribution pension plan for new employees but the union is holding fast to the status quo defined benefit plan. Most workers would prefer a DB plan because it offers a fixed return, but the reality is DC plans are the norm in today's workforce and it's hard to see why CUPW workers should be different.

Rather than hammer out compromises on these and other issues, Canada Post and CUPW have become increasingly hostile, with the company issuing a lockout notice that could see much home delivery interrupted as early as today.

If that happens, or even if it doesn't, here's a thought to chew on: Maybe it's time to blow up the Canada Post business model.

It's hardly a success in terms of consumer satisfaction.

The federal government has committed to a review of Canada Post.

Let's ensure complete or partial privatization is part of that review.

Let's ensure customers come first in the postal service model of tomorrow.

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Letters to the editor

Vaccine letter was nonsense

I read Jean Anderson's letter to the editor in the Aug. 25, 2016 edition regarding vaccines and felt compelled to respond.

Dangerous, uneducated and unsupported quasi-medical information has no place in the newspaper of the wonderful small town that I grew up in and love.

Shame on you for publishing the inane ramblings of an uneducated fear monger.

Everyone is allowed to have their own thoughts and feelings about important community issues, but even entertaining the supposed negative aspects of vaccination in print is a grave and reprehensible injustice to your readership and possibly a detriment to people's health.

As a media outlet you have a duty to provide accurate and truthful information to your audience.

Just the fact that you printed Jean Anderson's non-factual and unnecessary letter was a severe disservice to your audience.

Innocent misinformation is an acceptable part of being human and an excellent opportunity to gain knowledge, but blatant misinformation is propaganda, no different than any dictator or cult leader in human history.

I urge all readers to perform their own research remembering the tenet of quality in, quality out.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is the world's foremost center for disease and human health research. They have an easy to read and understand website that allows people to gather information about many such topics.

Fast and loose internet websites with no content control are not acceptable places to gather important health related information.

Speak to your trusted family doc-

tor or the wonderful and hardworking nurses in our many clinics.

Stop getting your information from social media and gossip.

Please stop printing non-factual and potentially dangerous misinformation in your public media outlet.

Daniel Kooy,
Georgetown

Letters Policy

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Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 150 words and may be edited for content and/or length.

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