

Residents should write Canada Post, Harper: councillor

From page 1.

roads and high-traffic volume. Human Resources Skills Development Canada investigated and

declared it wasn't safe for postal staff to deliver mail along the roads. Canada Post is appealing the decision.

If you're one of the people affected, you may already have received

Canada Post's notice that the green boxes are being replaced by new spiffier-looking 'community mailboxes' once suitable locations have been found - even before the results of the Canada Post

appeal are known.

Tony Maglietta of Whitchurch-Stouffville thinks Canada Post is discriminating against him because he is in a wheelchair. He couldn't retrieve his mail for five weeks from the green boxes.

With snow and ice in front of the boxes, he couldn't get his car close enough to open the mail box. For two months he called Canada Post with no response, an experience shared by many others at the meeting.

Many area residents are elderly and have to drive up to six kilometres each way to get their mail.

Others have to rely on neighbours to get their mail, resident Florence White said.

The situation described by Mr. Maglietta is "unacceptable," John

Wellsbury, Canada Post delivery planning manager, admitted.

He promised to do whatever he could to resolve the situation.

"What about our safety on the way to get our mail?" said Whitchurch-Stouffville's Patricia Dignard.

Other residents observed that the side of Aurora Road not covered under the ruling is receiving door-to-door mail delivery, while the other, with similar road conditions, isn't.

Out of the 150 work complaints by Canada Post employees from 80 facilities, this is by far the harshest ruling by the HRSDC, requiring the largest conversion from home delivery, said Kevin Burt, Canada Post manager for Newmarket.

Fears were expressed that the ruling could set a precedent for the more than 800,000 rural households now receiving mail delivery across Canada.

A letter-writing campaign was suggested by Mr. Ferdinands. If you live at one of the 1,100 addresses affected and you want your mail delivery back, he suggested writing to Lawrence Cannon, the federal minister responsible for postal service, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mr. Temelkovski.

Mr. Temelkovski promised to bring residents' concerns directly to Mr. Cannon in Ottawa next week.

For more information on the letter-writing campaign, phone Mr. Ferdinands at 905-640-1910.

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