

St. John's and District Labour Council

P.O. Box 1463
St. John's, Newfoundland
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Chartered by:
Canadian Labour Congress

Affiliated with
Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour

May 30, 2011

Honorable Kathy Dunderdale,
Premier, Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
The Office of the Premier
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Premier Dunderdale,

As you are undoubtedly aware, many of our provinces residents are very worried at the prospect of a looming strike or Lock-out at Canada Post. Particularly distraught are some of our most vulnerable citizens: folks who rely on social assistance or pension cheques for their very survival.

I am compelled to write at this time to express my sincere disappointment in your Governments decision **NOT** to follow the protocol which has been established between the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and their employer Canada Post Corporation, for the delivery of social assistance and pension cheques in the event of a strike or lock-out. Both the employer and the union recognize that postal delivery of these cheques is a paramount concern; neither party want pensioners and people with low income to suffer in the event of a labour dispute.

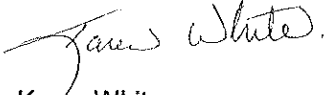
To have learned that your government has opted out of the delivery of these cheques indicates to me and to the 10,000 workers represented by the St John's & District Labour Council, that you are very clearly out of touch with the reality in our province.

Postal Delivery of this fundamental part of our social safety net ensures reliability, reassurance and dignity for the vulnerable in our society. We have only to look at the disaster which ensued during the last postal strike: long line-ups, lost & stolen cheques, long commutes and degrading conditions, to realize that your Governments alternative to postal delivery is not a viable option.

Seniors and low income families need these cheques. They also need reassurance that they will be delivered by the postal workers they rely on and trust. They should not have to get in a degrading public line-up at an inconvenient location for hours. Many of these citizens do not drive, or have access to transportation. Many of them are battling illness & physical limitations. **ALL OF THEM** deserve better from our government. Frankly, I am insulted and disappointed that the government of this province, under your leadership, does not have more respect for these members of our communities and for both parties involved in the looming labour dispute; surely if they can find common ground on this critical issue, you can recognize the significance.

I could understand you establishing alternative protocol if there were no other option but Premier, you do have an option! That option is one that both the CUPW and the CPC agree on and one that the people of this province want followed. I urge you to recognize the importance of postal delivery of these vital pieces of mail to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to reconsider your decision. There is still time for you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen White".

Karen White
President
St John's & District Labour Council
709-727-5971
karenwhite410@gmail.com

cc: Brother Craig Dyer, President, Canadian Union of Postal Workers Local 126
Yvonne Jones, Leader of the Official Opposition, Newfoundland & Labrador
Lorraine Michael, Leader of the New Democratic Party, Newfoundland & Labrador