



Re-imagining Canada Post

Canada Post is one of the few national institutions that survived the privatization blitz of the 1980s and 1990s. As such, it retains an important physical presence and, in many communities, stands as the only remaining symbol of a national identity. While its current mandate is narrow, as a self-sustaining public corporation it can be re-imagined as a critical piece of the Green economy.

Canada Post's extensive physical infrastructure can be used to offer a range of services to communities, building self-reliance and helping to cut greenhouse gas emissions. In diversifying services, as recommended by the Canadian Union of Postal Employees, Canada Post can become more profitable while offering support to rural communities where private sector activities such as banking are being withdrawn. A Green government will start by strengthening Canada Post's existing mandate, and then branch out.

- Reverse the most recent cuts to home postal delivery, a move promised by the Liberals but not delivered.
- Upgrade the Canada Post fleet to electric vehicles.
- Reduce pollution and congestion due to the explosion of package delivery from on-line shopping by establishing "last mile" delivery by Canada Post using zero-emission vehicles in urban centres.

Beyond postal service improvements, the Green Party supports a new vision for Canada Post that will be of particular benefit in rural and remote communities where services such as commercial banking have been shrinking. Canada Post is uniquely positioned to:

- Train mail carriers to check on people with mobility issues or who live alone, particularly during heat waves, storms and other emergencies.
- Establish banking services and public high-speed internet access in post offices, particularly in under-serviced rural and remote communities without banks and libraries.
- Where space is available, allow community meetings to be held in post offices.
- Provide charging stations for electric vehicles in post office parking lots.