

CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS

VANCOUVER LOCAL

AFFILIATED TO: VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOUR

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VANCOUVER, B.C.

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AUG 20 1984

A. U. C. E.

August 15, 1984

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On September 30, 1984, the contract between the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and the Canada Post Corporation expires. Collective bargaining between the two parties began on July 3, 1984. On August 3, we applied to the federal Minister of Labour for conciliation because our employer has said an emphatic "no" to all of our demands. They also put a host of roll-backs on the bargaining table designed to weaken our Collective Agreement.

Our Union strongly adheres to the C.L.C. policy of a "no concessions" stand. In addition, CUPW believes that concessions will lead to a deterioration of the postal service.

In this round of bargaining, our Union's demands can be grouped under the slogan "Make Jobs, Keep Jobs and Improve Service". Our main goals are to achieve a secure future for postal workers and to expand and improve postal service.

One of our main demands is for reduced working time with no loss of pay. This demand is being echoed across the country by unions like the United Auto Workers and the Communications Workers of Canada. It is in accordance with the policy adopted at the 1984 C.L.C. Convention. Reduced working time contributes to job security and allows us to benefit from technological change. In 1980, CUPW reduced the work week by two and a half hours and saved over 1,000 positions.

CUPW is also demanding adequate staffing. The logic of this demand is self-evident to anyone who has either waited for a letter or stood in line to buy stamps. We believe that this demand is directly linked to an improved postal service. Forcing the Corporation to adequately staff the Post Office will strengthen our job security and will create new jobs.

Another of CUPW's demands also directly relates to the issue of jobs. We are asking for a job creation program to be written into our Collective Agreement. This would include establishing lottery sales, mail-order retail

service, a parcel wrapping service, and certain banking services. We also want to convert sub-post offices (outlets in drug stores, shopping malls, etc.) into post offices staffed by well-trained, unionized workers.

Other demands include: a ban on contracting out, equality for part-timers, protection for night shift workers, and a prohibition of the use of all closed circuit television cameras and electronic surveillance devices.

Many of CUPW's demands are designed to improve the postal service. We believe that not only CUPW members but the public as a whole will benefit when we achieve our demands. We do not want to disrupt the postal service but want to expand and improve it.

We need your help. Support from the labour movement has always been crucial to us. In 1980, we achieved a contract without a strike partially because of the solidarity of the trade union movement. The same type of support enabled us to win breakthroughs, such as paid maternity leave, in our 1981 Collective Agreement. We are again asking for your support.

Even though CUPW is covered by the Canada Labour Code, our fight has real implications for B.C. unions. A number of the Directors of the Canada Post Corporation are affiliated to the right-wing Fraser Institute. We believe that it is important to take on the union-busting policies of the Fraser Institute.

Please support us by doing one or more of the following:

- (1) Write a letter to Michael Warren, President of the Canada Post Corporation, stating your support of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and urging him to negotiate fairly with CUPW. His address is:
Canada Post Corporation
Sir Alexander Campbell Building
Confederation Heights
OTTAWA, Ontario
- (2) Write a letter to Andre Ouellet, minister in charge of the Canada Post Corporation, and tell him that you support our Union and our demands. This letter requires no postage and should be sent to the Parliament Buildings, OTTAWA, Ontario.
- (3) Pass a motion in support of CUPW at your next membership meeting and send copies along with your letters to the above. We would also appreciate receiving copies of the letters and motions of support that you write. Our address is on the front page of this letter.

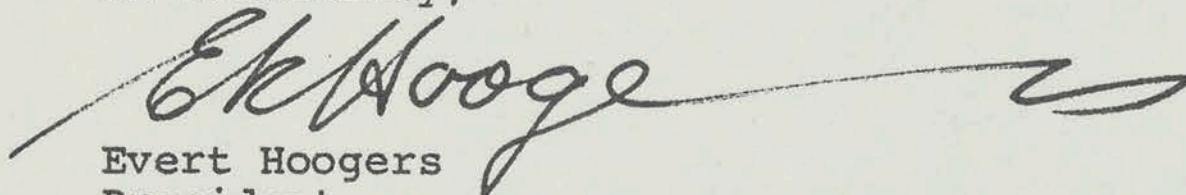
- (4) Print all or parts of this letter in your newsletters or bulletins.

We will be sending you future letters to keep you informed on the situation.

Stickers bearing the message "Stamp Out Postal Cutbacks" are enclosed for your use on the outside of envelopes.

Thanking you in advance for your anticipated support,

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Evert Hoogers", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Evert Hoogers
President
CUPW Vancouver Local