

Canada Post Review

Issue:

The Government of Canada is conducting an independent review of Canada Post. Residents and businesses, including major resource sectors, need to receive adequate mail and parcel delivery service.

Background:

- SARM is the independent association that represents all 296 rural municipal (RM) governments in Saskatchewan.
- While Saskatchewan RMs are home to nearly 200,000 residents and many sectors that drive Saskatchewan's economy, including agriculture, oil and gas, and mining, hundreds of thousands more live in resort villages, villages, and towns in rural settings.
- Mail and parcel delivery in rural Saskatchewan is not currently door-to-door, nor should it be. Instead, those in rural Saskatchewan utilize central pick-up locations and should continue to do so. SARM does not oppose the transition to community mail boxes in large, urban centres.
- SARM strongly opposes the closure of any more walk-in post office locations in rural Saskatchewan.
- The Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC), a provincial Crown corporation, plays a significant role in parcel delivery in rural Saskatchewan. However, financial losses have resulted in the cutting of bus routes. This further reduces parcel delivery options for those in rural Saskatchewan.
- While the world may be becoming more and more digital, rural Saskatchewan is challenged by insufficient broadband. Not only does this factor into residents and businesses' decision to move to rural areas, but it also makes it very difficult for those in rural communities to rely on digital modes of communication. Mail delivery is still a necessary medium of communication.
- SARM is not opposed to transitioning some pieces of Canada Post to a privatized model if contractors can provide the service at a lower cost, while also maintaining the integrity and security of the delivery system.
- SARM would support banks and post offices sharing space in rural communities. Both play a vital role in creating a vibrant rural community.

Key Points:

- Canada Post needs to maintain adequate delivery to rural Saskatchewan.
- SARM opposes the closure of any more walk-in post office locations in rural Saskatchewan.
- SARM supports community mailboxes in urban centres.
- Reliable broadband is lacking in rural Saskatchewan, making it difficult to increase digital methods of communication.
- Rural residents and businesses rely on the STC for parcel delivery, but STC is seeing its routes cut. The loss of bus routes further diminishes parcel delivery in RMs.
- Scheduling delivery drop offs at rural post offices would need to be determined at a community level. Different communities have different needs, and determining appropriate dates would need to be strategically planned within each community and service area.



- Canada Post should explore opportunities to share facilities with banking institutions in rural communities.

Recommendations:

SARM recommends that Canada Post maintain adequate mail and delivery services to rural municipalities and does not close anymore post offices in rural Saskatchewan.

SARM recommends that decisions regarding number of deliveries a week and delivery days be made at a community-level, as each community has different needs.

SARM recommends that broadband be expanded and improved upon in rural Saskatchewan, so that residents and businesses can better rely on digital communication.