



Lac La Biche County
welcoming by nature.

July 11, 2017

Office of the Mayor

Honourable Judy M. Foote
Minister of Public Services and Procurement
Place du Portage, Phase III, Suite 18A1
11 Laurier Street
Gatineau, QC K1A 0S5

Dear Minister Foote:

On behalf of Lac La Biche County Council, we wish to express our support for the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimate's (OGGO) recommendations to maintain the moratorium on rural post office closures.

As a rural municipality with several post offices that we consider vital to maintaining Lac La Biche County as an attractive place to live and work, we support all efforts to expand and improve Canada Post. Here are some of the Committee's recommendations that we hope the Government of Canada will adopt:

- Maintain the moratorium on post office closures, and examine how to expand their opening hours;
- Assess how Canada Post could offer more services through its existing retail network;
- Study how to transform post offices into community hubs;
- Study the possibility of using Canada Post to offer wide band internet services and better cellular phone services in rural areas; and
- Develop a specific and rigorous process for collaboration between Canada Post and municipalities.

Moreover, despite the fact that more 600 municipalities adopted resolutions in favour of postal banking services, we have not seen this matter reflected in the OGGO's report. We believe that the Government of Canada should nonetheless seriously study the possibility of offering these services.

These proposals represent an excellent opportunity to expand Canada Post in ways that respond to citizens' needs and reflect the image of a 21st century post office.

We appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Omer Moghrabi
Mayor

cc: Lac La Biche County Council

Shadia Amblie, Chief Administrative Officer