

February 10, 2025

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada

jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Duclos,

We are writing on behalf of CIFFA Corp, which represents over 14,000 member employees of freight forwarders, customs brokers, freight brokers, drayage truckers, and warehousing firms across Canada. Our association's members manage approximately 80% of the country's import and export trade. We are writing to express concerns regarding Canada Post's decision to have its subsidiary, Purolator, acquire Livingston International, a leading firm in customs brokerage and freight forwarding.

Our primary concern is the potential conflict this acquisition creates by having a government owned corporation compete directly with private businesses within an already well-supplied market. CIFFA believes that Canada Post should not use its position as a government entity to venture into competitive markets, especially when these actions may harm private sector players.

How does this purchase benefit Canadians when Canada Post, as a government entity, enters an already saturated marketplace? This purchase appears to be about seeking new revenue streams for the corporation, rather than improving services for the Canadian public. How will the combined business address the clear conflict of interest between generating revenue for the government of Canada while also minimizing the tariff burden on importers? It is crucial that the corporation's activities do not disadvantage private sector businesses, particularly since the marketplace is already well served by private companies.

Canada's customs brokerage and freight forwarding industry already has hundreds of skilled service providers, delivering exceptional levels of service. Therefore, there seems to be no pressing need for a federal Crown corporation to enter this market, potentially disrupt its efficiency and competition, and lead to higher costs for business at a time when Canadian businesses are especially vulnerable to U.S. trade policy.

In addition to this letter, CIFFA intends to formally request the House of Commons Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates to review this transaction when Parliament reconvenes. We are seeking transparency on the acquisition's cost, as the price paid for Livingston International has not been disclosed, and we also request clarification on how this acquisition fits into Canada Post's overall strategic plan.

We trust that you will give this matter your attention, as it raises important questions regarding the role of government corporations in the private market and the use of revenue generated through Canada Post's operations. We would appreciate your insight into how this acquisition aligns with the interests of both taxpayers and Canadian businesses alike.

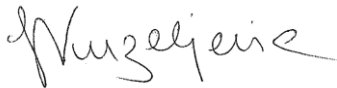
Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response.

With best wishes,



Bruce Rodgers

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Marc-Olivier Girard, Clerk, House of Commons Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates; OGGO@parl.gc.ca