

NATIONAL NEWS

■ **ELECTION:** Workers plan to follow PM around country, get involved in local campaigns

Postal union takes aim at Harper

EDMONTON — The national president of the postal workers union says he's not telling anyone how to vote on Oct. 19 — just so long as it isn't for Conservative Stephen Harper.

Mike Palecek says his members plan to follow Harper around the country and get involved in local campaigns to remind voters of cuts to Canada Post that resulted last year in the end of door-to-door delivery in many Canadian cities.

Canada Post's move to community mailboxes is expected to save the corporation about \$500 million per year to cope with what it says is a declining volume of mail in the digital age.

Palecek of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers says the cuts at Canada Post, which have included proposals to change the funding of the workers' pension plan, "are completely unjustified" because Canada Post "continues to make profits." Canada Post's pre-tax profit in 2014 was about \$194 million.

"These cuts are completely unjustified. There's no reason for them to go ahead given the corporation continues to make profits," Palecek says.

The NDP have vowed to reverse the cuts, while the Liberals have promised a moratorium on any cuts at Canada Post while they study the future of the corporation.

Angry postal workers greeted Harper's arrival in Edmonton as part of a cross-country tour that comes four years after a nasty dispute between Canada Post and its workers led to rotating strikes, a lock-out and ultimately back-to-work legislation.

Although the two sides eventually came to an agreement in 2012, the issue has lingered in the courts. The union's charter challenge to the legislation is scheduled to be heard later this fall.

The timing of the court case and the contract talks make the future of Canada Post an election issue, Palecek says.

"At this point were asking people to vote for home mail delivery," Palecek says.

"I'm not here to tell you who to vote for, but I am here to tell you that if Stephen Harper is re-elected, you're not going to have the same public postal service that you've been able to count on in the past."

A spokesman for the Conservative campaign dismissed the protest. Kory Teneycke says the protest was a "representation of union leadership, not the workers."

Dozens of protesters lined the sidewalk outside a manufacturing facility for oilfields equipment where the Conservative leader addressed a rally Wednesday evening. The speech took aim at the NDP government of Premier Rachel Notley, and lampooned Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau for comments made earlier in the day that the Liberals wanted to grow the economy from the "heart outward."

Harper said Notley, much like himself, shouldn't be blamed for the decline in oil prices because they were beyond government control. Harper, however, tried to link provincial tax increases to the federal NDP and argued Canadian voters shouldn't gamble on Tom Mulcair the same way Alberta voters have gambled on Notley.

Harper heads to Regina, Sask., Wednesday night as part of an aggressive travel schedule to hit key battlegrounds for the Tories, hoping to shore up support early in a long campaign where polls suggest a close three-way race between the major parties.

— The Canadian Press



A worker sorts mail at a Canada Post processing facility in Edmonton. The national president of the postal workers union said Thursday union members will follow Stephen Harper around the country and get involved in local campaigns to support opposition parties.

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EVERYTHING LEGAL

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF UNION GAS LIMITED

Union Gas Limited has applied for approval to change its gas commodity, storage and transportation rates effective January 1, 2016.

Learn more. Have your say.

Union Gas Limited has applied to change its rates to better reflect how it supplies natural gas to its customers. The proposed changes include the following:

- A change in the reference price used to set rates on a quarterly basis for a majority of its customers; and
- A change to how it allocates costs to the different types of customers that it serves.

An average residential customer would see the following annual bill impact, but these impacts would only start in 2018:

Residential Customer – Service Area	Approximate Bill Impact
Southern Ontario (Windsor to Hamilton)	Decrease of \$20
Northern Delivery Area (North Bay to Kapuskasing)	Increase of \$26
All Other Delivery Areas	Decrease of \$1.50 – \$51.50

Other customers in Union Gas Limited's service area, including businesses, will also be affected.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider the application filed by Union Gas.

We will question Union Gas on the case. We will also hear arguments from individuals and from groups that represent the customers of Union Gas. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide whether to approve the changes that Union Gas has requested in this application.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review the application filed by Union Gas on the OEB's website now.
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing.
- You can become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by **August 25, 2015** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website.

LEARN MORE

Our file number for this case is **EB-2015-0181**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please select the file number **EB-2015-0181** from the list on the OEB website: **www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice**. You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.


ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. The OEB will determine at a later date whether to proceed by way of a written or oral hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **August 25, 2015**.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and e-mail address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This hearing will be held under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).



Ontario
Ontario Energy Board / Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario