

## Seniors' Lifeline— THE POSTAL SERVICE Threatened by Deregulation

The world and the way we communicate is changing rapidly and now the federal government has started a quick and potentially damaging review of our postal services, something seniors rely on more than e-mail, internet banking or cell phones.

A federal Review Committee will be considering deregulating letter mail. Currently Canada Post has the exclusive right to deliver mail throughout the country. But it must do so for the same postage no matter where the recipient or sender lives.

No public hearings have been scheduled, but written submissions in support of our public mail service may be sent in. The deadline is the end of September. The Council of Retired Canadians (CURC) Executive board has submitted a brief on behalf of its members, supporting the exclusive privilege for delivering letter mail to remain with Canada Post Corporation and opposing any deregulation of services now provided. The CURC also suggests any profits earned by the Corporation be put into improving service to the citizens of Canada.

The CURC Executive board suggests that even if the deadline has passed to make submissions to the Committee. Members and affiliates should contact their Member of Parliament and make your views known that you want the "exclusive privilege" for delivering letter mail to be maintained by Canada Post Corporation and that you oppose deregulation of postal services.

Use the "Fax your MP" section of the Steelworkers' Web site to send a message to your MP at [www.usw.ca](http://www.usw.ca).



## COOKING UP SUPPORT for the New Democratic Party

**HAMILTON** — SOAR Chapter 10 members enjoyed an August barbecue grilled to perfection by members Lena and Bob Sutton. The cookout was hosted by Wayne Marston, NDP MP for Hamilton East-Stoney Creek.

The Hamilton area has been hard hit by the loss of good paying manufacturing jobs.

"Members know the importance of having strong voices like our current NDP MPs Chris Charlton, David Christopherson and Wayne Marston speaking on our behalf in Parliament," said SOAR Chapter 10 President Lena Sutton, "If you believe in publicly funded health care, pensions, decent wages, food safety and an adequate standard of living for all Canadians then you believe in the NDP."

Because of a 2001 Consumer Price Index miscalculation, retirees are owed monies from the Canada Pension, Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement. NDP Members of Parliament are fighting to correct this error to ensure that retirees receive the monies owed back to 2001.

## SOAR Members Rally for Health Care

**TORONTO** — SOAR members joined demonstrations across Ontario on Saturday, September 27, to rally against health care cuts.

Demonstrators are calling on the government to put an end to P3 hospitals (public-private partnerships), and to stop homecare competitive bidding, privatization of services and two-tier billing. Seniors and their families are also demanding regulated minimum care standards in long-term care facilities.

If you would like to participate or learn more about how you can help, contact your SOAR chapter office in Toronto, Kingston, and Sudbury.

