

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on
December 10, 2025*

5. Don't let Chinatown's Postal Service be Stamped Out

Submitted by: Councillor Fry

WHEREAS

1. *Uplifting Chinatown*, passed unanimously by City Council in January 2023 aimed to support economic vitality and address deteriorating conditions in Vancouver's historic Chinatown. One of the three pillars to the action plan, Community Supports, emphasized continuation of existing programs that provide supports to people in Chinatown;
2. Located at 418 Main Street, The Chinatown Post Office has served as a vital community hub for residents, businesses, and seniors in Vancouver's historic Chinatown and the DTES area for decades. The privately owned franchise operation permanently shuttered the service on November 12;
3. Canada Post has been reported as saying the closure was part of a broader review of retail operations to reduce costs, and Canada Post chose not to maintain or replace the franchisee¹;
4. Access to postal services is essential for local businesses, unhoused and low-income people, seniors, and people with disabilities, and residents who rely on in-person services for mail, parcels, and financial transactions;
5. Many service recipients in Chinatown have no mail receptacle (or what Canada Post refer to as a Secure Location / Safe Drop), meaning that many residents will be diverted to as far away as 499 Granville or 1424 Commercial Drive to collect mail and parcels;
6. Chinatown is a designated historic neighborhood and cultural heritage site, and maintaining essential services like a post office supports its economic vitality and cultural preservation; and
7. The closure and reduction of services at the Chinatown Post Office disproportionately impacts seniors, small businesses, and residents with limited mobility or digital access.

¹ CBC, Nov 7, 2025 | Vancouver Chinatown's last post office, a 'lifeline' for community, facing closure
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/saving-vancouver-chinatown-s-last-post-office-9.6971128>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

A. THAT The City of Vancouver formally express its support for the continued operation of a Chinatown Post Office as a full-service facility;

B. THAT Council request that the Mayor write to:

1. Canada Post CEO Doug Ettinger,
2. Canada Post Vice-President, Retail Network and Services, Michael Yee,
3. Canada Post Retail Business Manager, Dana Dumore, and
4. Federal Minister responsible for Canada Post Joël Lightbound,

to advocate for maintaining and enhancing postal services in Vancouver's Chinatown;

FURTHER THAT the Mayor's letter includes contact information for the City's Real Estate department to explore potential leases of City-owned space in Chinatown should that be of interest to Canada Post as they continue to explore service options for Chinatown.

C. THAT Council direct staff to consider potential integration or co-location of potential community-serving and culturally appropriate postal services in Chinatown as part of current and future civic owned asset revitalization project planning.

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