

# SYNOPSIS

## **Title –**

January 8, 2021

CANADIAN MAIL, THE POST OFFICE AND COVID-19

## **Purpose of Exhibit –**

To show the various items Canada Post has handled or made related to Covid-19.

## **Historical Background –**

COVID-19 literally took over Canada by March of 2020. It continues to be a very disruptive problem with the overload on the Health Care System due to sickness, hospitalization and deaths. The necessary restrictions with the closure of many activities including jobs, businesses and most social activities has caused a major upset in many people's lives. The use of masks and social distancing has affected everyone including the Post Office.

## **Scope-**

We show items with COVID-19 related wording or pictures on the covers.

Various classes of mail were partially or totally embargoed to various countries. Some were returned with a Special Label (shown.) Other will be returned eventually or sent as addressed after a major delay of many months with changing or removal of restrictions. All delivery guarantees were cancelled. Signature on delivery was cancelled except for Registered.

It is very hard to show delay in Canadian mail as the vast majority of Canadian mail is not cancelled or cancelled using a pen or crayon. I had sent a Xpresspost envelope to the Post Office Department in Ottawa from Raymond on December 4, 2020 which arrived in Calgary December 5 and Ottawa on December 10, 2020. The latest report: - In transit Jan. 8 - Expected delivery - Item delayed — stay tuned for updates. Mail processing plants were shut down due to Covid-19 outbreaks within the plant. Mail from Edmonton to Raymond was sent to Toronto for processing when the Calgary plant was shut down for 2 weeks in April.

Due to the massive increase in on-line shopping, the Post Office is swamped and as of January 8, 2021 has not caught up.



Pictures in Calgary about December 15, 2020

Canada Post used a cancel related to thanking **HEALTHCARE WORKERS** in many machines in 11 Sorting facilities. We show samples of these cancels.

Canada Post gave a Souvenir to thank their employees at Christmas time. It consisting of a cardboard box enclosing a thank you card, a pin and a 3 booklets of 12 special stamps. These are all shown. They also produced a Postal Stationery envelope, a Postal Stationery Card and an Illustrated Permit Card, all were produced with a French and an English version. These had some reference to difficult times or being Safe.

Finally we show Post Office signs.

## **Availability –**

Most of the items in this exhibit have been in my personal mail or sent to me by friends who knew I was interested.

## **Philatelic Elements –**

We show the different kind of forms and labels used on incoming mail mainly in the last 30 to 40 years.

## **Philatelic Significance –**

It is modern postal history of an epidemic and the Post Offices reaction to Covid-19.

## **Philatelic References –**

I know of no references to the subject other brief notes in newspapers or Canadian Stamp News.