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Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Postal workers protest boss's big boost in pay

By STAFF

Canada Post workers in Winnipeg accused their boss of drinking a little too heavily from the public trough yesterday.

Clad in pig ears and matching snouts, approximately 40 Canada Post workers picketed outside the Crown corporation's downtown office yesterday morning. Organized by the local Canadian Union of Postal Workers, protesters showed their disdain for a new federal pay scale that will potentially boost Canada Post CEO Andre Ouellet's salary to more than \$500,000 this year -- the highest of any civil servant in the country.

"Mr. Ouellet feels postal workers should be happy with a 3% increase when the inflation rate is 2.55%," said local union president Virginia Hnytka.

32% INCREASE

"The proposed increase for his salary is 32%."

The raise is part of a federal strategy launched in 1998 to bring salaries for senior civil servants in line with the private sector. Ouellet, who received a 2.5% raise this year, will pull in \$408,000 this year with the potential of receiving a 25% performance bonus.

Ouellet told postal workers in Calgary last week he wouldn't accept the raise, Hnytka claimed. A Canada Post spokesman would not confirm that, however.

"He didn't share that with me," the spokesman said. "I'm not aware of anything like that happening."

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