not rely on government funding to operate. The sales of goods and services to the public are the principal source of revenues of the corporation. Canada Post develops and offers delivery, logistics and communication services intended to serve the needs of businesses and individuals. As part of its product offering, Canada Post licenses to businesses and other organisations the right to reproduce and use databases compiled and maintained by Canada Post, including the CPC Database.

The Post Office Department commenced compiling the CPC Database in 1971 as a tool to increase the efficiency of the mail delivery system within Canada. The CPC Database comprises a selection of geographic, operational and postal information translated in a series of alphanumeric codes or Postal Codes (the "Postal Codes"), each of which relate the information to corresponding municipal addresses based on data collected by Canada Post. Each Postal Code provides information about municipal addresses such as the major geographic area, the city or town, the location within local geographic boundaries defined by Canada Post, the delivery mode, the urban or rural area designation and the street, selected and arranged in an original way to facilitate the efficient delivery of mail.

The integrity of the postal information contained in the CPC Database is a primary concern of Canada Post, which ensures that the data contained in the CPC Database is both accurate and current. This is necessary to ensure the efficient delivery of mail avoiding errors in the automated sorting due to incorrect or invalid addresses. Businesses and organizations authorized by Canada Post to use the CPC Database are also contractually bound only to use, distribute or otherwise make available data from the CPC Database that is accurate and current.

Since 1971, the CPC Database has been updated at regular intervals to reflect changing circumstances. This has resulted in successive iterations of the CPC Database with each building on the previous one. The selection and arrangement of data into the CPC Database requires skill and judgment and has been carried out by designated employees within Canada Post’s organisation and that of its predecessor in title prior to 1981.