



PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD
Automobile Insurance Review

PRESS RELEASE

February 14/05 St. John's, NL - Public Utilities Board Auto Insurance Review

The Public Utilities Board will begin public sessions relating to its automobile insurance review tomorrow, Tuesday February 15, 2005.

Presentations from the Board's Actuaries and Consultants, as well as Actuaries for the Consumer Advocate and Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) will take place in the Board's hearing room – Prince Charles Building, 120 Torbay Road - starting 9:30 am Tuesday and will continue through Friday February 18. This week will provide participants and the public with greater insight into some of the technical considerations concerning issues before the Board.

Presentations from registered participants and the public will be heard during the week of February 21 – 25 also in the Board's hearing room. Presentations will be made by the Consumer Advocate, the IBC, Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Coalition Against No Fault Insurance, MHAs Jack Harris and Charlene Johnson, union representatives, various insurance organizations, industry associations and a number of private citizens.

An evening session will be held on Thursday, February 24, starting 7:00 pm at Holiday Inn in St. John's to accommodate additional presentations.

Public sessions are also scheduled for various other centers throughout the Province as follows:

Corner Brook	Monday, February 28, 7-9 pm	Glynmill Inn, Cobb Lane
Happy Valley-Goose Bay	Tuesday, March 1, 7-9 pm	Hotel North, Loring Drive
Gander	Wednesday, March 2, 7-9 pm	Hotel Gander, TCH

For a detailed schedule of locations, venues and presentations, please visit the Board's website, www.pub.nl.ca

For those unable to participate in person, the Board has established numerous ways for interested parties to provide their input, including a toll free line, email, online feedback form, fax and mail. "The Board is committed to making sure that anyone interested in these automobile insurance matters has the ability to make their voice heard", said Robert Noseworthy, Chair and CEO. "We want this aspect of the review to be thorough, accessible, cost effective and conducted in a timely manner for reporting to Government by the deadline of March 31."

The Board was requested by the Provincial Government to review and report on a number of issues affecting automobile insurance premiums. These issues included the impact of using caps or deductibles to limit monetary awards for pain and suffering, the elimination of rating based on age, gender and marital status and any additional cost saving measures that may be identified

during the review. The Board has completed a series of reports/studies on these issues. A public information brochure is also available by contacting the Board.

All documentation and information on the automobile insurance review is available on the Board's website (www.pub.nl.ca) or upon request.

Following the automobile insurance review, the Board will be commencing work on the second component of the comprehensive insurance review requested by Government, which will include Homeowners, Commercial and Marine Insurances.

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Media are invited as observers at the sessions. Recording, videotaping or photography is not permitted during the sessions, and is limited to prior to and after the sessions.