



PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD  
**Automobile Insurance Review**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**February 18, 2005 St. John's, NL – Public Utilities Auto Insurance Review: Public Sessions Underway**

The Public Utilities Board began public sessions relating to its automobile insurance review on Tuesday, February 15 / 05 with the first week concluding today, February 18 / 05.

The purpose of this week was to provide participants and the public with greater insight into some of the technical considerations concerning issues before the Board, in particular the impact of cap and deductible options on awards for pain and suffering. This was accomplished through presentations from the Board's Actuaries and Consultants, as well as Actuaries for the Consumer Advocate and Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC).

Starting Monday February 21 / 05, presentations from registered participants and the public will be heard in the Board's hearing room (Prince Charles Building, 120 Torbay Road). Presentations will be made by the Consumer Advocate, the IBC, Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Coalition Against No Fault Insurance, MHAs Mr. Jack Harris and Ms. 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 at 7:00 pm at Holiday Inn in St. John's to accommodate additional presentations.

Public sessions are also scheduled for various other centres 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](http://www.pub.nl.ca). A public information brochure is also available on the site or by contacting the Board.

The Board strongly encourages all interested parties to attend these sessions. However, 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 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.

All documentation and information – including a daily transcript of the sessions – is available on the Board’s website 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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