

MANITOBA) Order No. 107/04
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) August 16, 2004

BEFORE: Graham F. J. Lane, C.A., Chairman
E. Jorgensen, Member

**APPLICATION BY SCOOTERING MANITOBA TO
INTERVENE IN THE MANITOBA PUBLIC INSURANCE
CORPORATION'S 2005 GENERAL RATE APPLICATION**

The Public Utilities Board of Manitoba (the "Board"), subsequent to issuance of its Procedural Order No. 97/04, received a request for intervenor status from Scootering Manitoba ("SM"). SM sought approval to intervene at the upcoming public hearing to consider an application filed by the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation ("MPI") for approval of its 2005 Rate Bases and Premiums (the "Application").

This Order is issued pursuant to Rule 26 of the Board's Draft Rules of Practice and Procedure, which provides a process for persons or organizations interested in participating in a hearing to obtain intervenor status. SM filed a completed Intervenor Request Form on August 6, 2004, noting that its members "feel that aspects of MPI's proposed rate increase for moped-class vehicles is un-equitable and flawed."

SM indicated its intention to participate in the examination of evidence at the hearing, and that it would make a presentation and provide final argument. SM does not intend to produce evidence, call a witness, or apply for costs.

MPI, by way of letter to the Board of August 10, 2004, indicated that it did not support intervenor status for SM, because of SM's late filing. MPI noted that the filing date for intervenor status applications was July 12, 2004, and that the 1st Round of Information Requests of MPI had already been completed. MPI further observed that SM had not participated in previous rate applications, and suggested that SM should consider making a presentation at the hearing rather than participating as an intervenor.

The Board agrees with MPI that SM's application is late, and observes that the organization has missed its opportunity to ask 1st Round questions of MPI. Nonetheless, recognizing that MPI's Application seeks a significant rate increase for SM's constituency, and that the organization had no previous experience with the Board's process, it will grant SM status.

However, SM will be restricted to asking second round questions of MPI, and be obliged to frame its questions in conjunction with the Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc./Manitoba Society of Seniors (CAC/MSOS). CAC/MSOS represents consumer interests and has considerable experience with the Board's process.

The Board also notes that SM neither intends to call a witness nor will seek an award of costs, and makes these additional conditions of the Board's approval of intervenor status for it. The Board is sensitive to the existing workload of MPI and the other intervenors, and believes that SM can meet its obligations to its own membership while cooperating with CAC/MSOS. Board staff will facilitate the development of a cooperative working arrangement between SM and CAC/MSOS, and, at SM's invitation, would meet with SM to provide background information related to the hearing process.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Intervenor status BE AND IS HEREBY GRANTED to Scootering Manitoba.
2. The intervenor shall comply with the timetable and procedures for the hearing all as set out in the Board's Procedural Order No. 97/04, from this day forward.
3. The intervenor will call no witnesses, file 2nd Round questions only, work in conjunction with CAC/MSOS, and not seek an award of costs.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"GRAHAM F. J. LANE C.A."
Chairman

"H. M. SINGH"
Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order
No. 107/04 issued by The Public
Utilities Board

Acting Secretary