

M A N I T O B A) Order No. 143/00
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) October 27, 2000

BEFORE: G. D. Forrest, Chairman
E. Jorgensen, Member
P. Britton, Member

**APPLICATION FOR INTERVENOR STATUS BY MR. BOB
STRONG - APPLICATION OF THE MANITOBA PUBLIC
INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE
CORPORATION'S RATE BASES AND PREMIUMS CHARGED
FOR COMPULSORY DRIVER AND VEHICLE INSURANCE
COMMENCING MARCH 1, 2001**

The Public Utilities Board of Manitoba (the "Board") held a Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) at its offices in Winnipeg, Manitoba on June 26, 2000 to consider, among other things, applications for intervenor status at the public hearing of the application of Manitoba Public Insurance ("MPI") for approval of Rate Bases and Premiums charged for compulsory driver and vehicle insurance commencing March 1, 2001.

At this hearing parties wishing to obtain intervenor status were requested to address their respective applications in detail, to present the reasons for requesting intervenor status and

to provide details of the areas of the MPI Application they wished to examine.

In Order No. 92/00, the Board approved a list of intervenors, a timetable for the orderly exchange of information and the procedures to be followed at the hearing.

On October 23, 2000 the Board received a further application from Mr. Bob Strong for intervenor status and the required completed Intervenor Request Form. Mr. Strong indicated the reason for seeking intervenor status was as follows:

"It is my contention that a substantial portion of MPI's surplus is attributable to unfair compensation to bodily injury victims, and should be distributed to them, rather than to motorists."

Mr. Strong indicated that he intends to appear throughout the hearing and to test evidence. Mr. Strong will be applying for costs.

In accordance with the Board's Draft Rules of Practice and Procedure, MPI was requested to respond to Mr. Strong's Application and their response was filed on October 24, 2000. The Corporation indicated that it strongly opposed the Application as the deadline for filing for intervenor status has long passed and further, as the issues raised by Mr. Strong are outside the jurisdiction of the Board. The Corporation questioned whether Mr. Strong's concerns would be more properly handled by a presentation.

In a letter dated October 26, 2000, Mr. Strong responded to MPI's objection stating that his Application is past the date required to register as an intervenor as he only became aware late in the process of the hearing of the Board and further, that the merits of his intervention should be based on merit not a technicality.

Mr. Strong stated that he recognized the Board's specific and limited mandate and that he believes his concerns about the Corporation's adequacy of the disclosure of information required by claimants to pursue legitimate claims and the Corporation's policy to not provide benefits to injured persons for the first week of injury are matters he should be able to pursue at the hearing. Further, Mr. Strong questions the manner in which MPI intends on handling surplus monies of the Corporation.

Board Finding

The Board has considered the Application of Mr. Strong and the responses. Based upon the information provided, it would appear that many of the issues to be raised by Mr. Strong may be outside the Board's jurisdiction. The Board notes from Mr. Strong's submission that he is aware of the Board's specific and limited mandate and accordingly, will not grant the Application for intervenor status but recommend that Mr. Strong make a presentation to the Board at 1:15 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 6, 2000 at the Board's offices. If these times are not convenient Mr. Strong is to advise the Secretary of the Board.

