



## REGULATORY PROCESS

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Manitoba  
Consumer and  
Corporate Affairs



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#### 1. *WHO IS ENTITLED TO RECOVER THEIR COSTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN PUBLIC HEARINGS?*

The Board and applicant's costs are initially charged to the applicant, and ultimately paid by the consumers in the case of a regulated industry.

An intervenor is entitled to apply to the Board to recover costs from the applicant. Such applications are considered by the Board, subject to its order governing awarding of costs. This order sets out the criteria that will be used by the Board in assessing such applications including:

- financial need;
- contribution to proceedings;
- evidence of representing a significant group of consumers;
- evidence of responsible cooperation with other Intervenors with common objectives.

A copy of the Order is available from the Board's offices. It should be noted that the Board does not award costs to presenters or municipalities.

#### 2. *DO I NEED A LAWYER IF I WISH TO TAKE PART IN THE PUBLIC HEARING?*

Generally not, if you wish to take part as a presenter. You may wish, however, to draw upon the services of interested fellow citizens or some group with which you are associated, in order to prepare your presentation. Board staff and advisors are also available on a consultative basis.

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If you wish to take part as an intervenor, then you will most likely do so as a representative of some sort of association or interest group. Legal counsel in such circumstances would be helpful. However, taking the role of intervenor is still possible without a lawyer.

**3. DO WE HAVE TO BE THERE FOR THE WHOLE HEARING?**

No, but intervenors may be restricted from asking questions that may have already been covered during their absence.

**4. CAN I RECOVER THE COST OF LOST WAGES TO ATTEND THE HEARING?**

No, only out-of-pocket expenses such as travel and meals can be recovered if allowed by the Board.

**5. IS A CONSUMER AS AN APPLICANT LIABLE FOR COSTS?**

Technically, the answer is yes. Accordingly, it is recommended a prior ruling of the Board be obtained.

If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to call the Board as noted:

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