NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
120 Torbay Road, P.O. Box 21040, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, A1A 5B2

## 2017 Automobile Insurance Review

## Taxi Operator Meetings Transcript

Tuesday, April 10, 2018
Session One

## Present:

## The Board:

Darlene Whalen, Chair and CEO
Dwanda Newman, Vice-Chair
James Oxford, Commissioner

## Board Counsel/ Staff:

Jacqueline Glynn, Board Counsel
Ryan Oake

Participants:
Tuesday, April 10, 2018
Donnie Earle, Goulds Taxi

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NOTICE TO READER: THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN PRODUCED
FROM AUDIO THAT WAS NOT RECORDED BY DISCOVERIES
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UNLIMITED'S COURT REPORTER.
MS. GLYNN:
    Q. Again, just to start with a big thank you
    for you coming in to speak with us today, we
    really appreciate you taking the time.
    We've already introduced everybody, but for
    the record, Travis Fisher, regulatory
    analyst; Jackie Glynn, legal counsel; and we
    have the three commissionaires, Mr. James
    Oxford, Ms. Darlene Whelan and Ms. Dwanda
    Newman. So, the purpose of our meeting is
    to provide an opportunity for the taxi
    operators to talk with the commissionaires
        about the issues they are facing in relation
        to their insurance costs and just what you
        see is important to your industry. So,
        specific to the taxi industry, the Board has
        been asked to audit claims to determine the
        cause of the four claims experience,
        including the details regarding the
        underlying causes of loss and the high
        claims costs incurred. And we've been asked
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            to provide recommendations to reduce those
            claims lost and to reduce the rates for the
            taxi industry. So, Cameron and Associates
            has prepared a report. They've identified
            some possible areas that could be
            contributing to the claims experience, but
            we wanted to hear it directly from the taxi
            operators. So, the purpose of today's
            meeting is just to discuss the taxi issues
            and the Cameron report, but also, please
            feel free if there's any other issues that
            we are looking at that you can comment on
            that as well. So, the cap, the deductible,
            anything else that we're looking at, highway
            safety, any of those things. There was
            supposed to be copies of the report and the
            Terms of Reference.
    CHAIR:
            Q. Well, I have the Terms of Reference, and I
            have the reports.
    MS. GLYNN:
    Q. I can skip out when we're getting ready.
    CHAIR:
    Q. Yeah, sure. Okay.
    MS. GLYNN:
    Q. And the Terms of Reference are there so that if there's anything else basically, you want to comment, but just note that we are going to have another opportunity for the other issues outside of the taxi, if you wanted to come back and comment on those as well. We're still waiting on some reports for those.

So, this is supposed to be an informal discussion. Talk away, but we are transcribing to ensure that we have an accurate and verified record of what is said. That transcript will become part of the public record, which means it will be available on our website and it may be referred to by the Commissionaires when they're writing their report to Government. The report is supposed to be filed with Government on June 30th. We won't be making any determinations or decisions, that's the Government's role. We provide the information, but that provides us with the unique opportunity that we can pass on comments on a vast array of issues. So, please feel free to discuss any issues that
you have and the Commissionaires or I will certainly let you know if we've gone too far outside of the parameters of our review. So, with all that being said, I will turn it over to you to introduce yourself and who you represent, and you can start your discussion.
MR. EARLE:
A. My name is Don Earle, and I'm here to represent the Goulds Taxi. I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to say my piece. You know, we've been doing a lot of talking over the last 12 months and it just seems to be to me that we can't get to the root of what my issues are. It just seems to be, okay, the taxi industry is taking in a lot of money, but they're paying out a lot of money, and in business sense, at the end of the day, you need to make money. Nobody argues that--nobody is going argue that fact and certainly not me. The problem that I have with it and my issues with it are I've been in business for 23 years, I got no scrapes or bumps. What I'd like to see, charge me for what I've done

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| 1 | and not for what I haven't done. Over the | 1 |  | 12 hour shift, there's someone else getting |
| 2 | last five years, all of a sudden, I'm | 2 |  | in it. Those vehicles are constantly |
| 3 | grouped in a class where all of a sudden, | 3 |  | moving, 24/7. I'm grouped as high risk the |
| 4 | I'm considered high risk and I'd like | 4 |  | same as those guys, but when I'm off, my car |
| 5 | someone to--I feel like I'm being | 5 |  | is off. My car don't move 24/7. I'm in a |
| 6 | discriminated against by being grouped in | 6 |  | small community outside the Goulds, and what |
| 7 | that category. Where I go to my insurance | 7 |  | I see happening, what I see happening is the |
| 8 | company and I insure my vehicle, the first | 8 |  | bigger companies are the ones that caused |
| 9 | thing my insurance company asks me for is a | 9 |  | this problem, because a few years back, four |
| 10 | copy of my abstract. They want to know what | 10 |  | or five years ago, they didn't have drivers |
| 11 | my abstract is. They determine then what | 11 |  | for these vehicles. Now all of a sudden, |
| 12 | I'll be charged--what the cost to me will | 12 |  | there's an abundance of drivers, the cars |
| 13 | be. These other bigger companies is where, | 13 |  | are moving constantly, and it doesn't matter |
| 14 | and I'm not picking on them, but to me, the | 14 |  | to them what their abstracts are, as long as |
| 15 | problem lies in, they're left to police | 15 |  | their cars are being moved, because nobody |
| 16 | their selves they get, a what do you call | 16 |  | is policing them. They don't need to go |
| 17 | it? | 17 |  | into Co-operators or one of these other |
| 18 | MS. GLYNN: | 18 |  | companies and say, "hey, this is the guy I |
| 19 | Q. A fleet rate? | 19 |  | got now driving for me. Is it okay to give |
| 20 | MR. EARLE: | 20 |  | him the vehicle"? It doesn't matter, as |
| 21 | A. Fleet insurance, and then they get a general | 21 |  | long as the vehicle is being moved. Right |
| 22 | gentleman or a lady come in and they look at | 22 |  | now, they're charging \$15.00 a shift for the |
| 23 | their abstract and they determine whether or | 23 |  | vehicles to be on the road. They're |
| 24 | not they're going to hire them and, you | 24 |  | actually profiting now, if you do the math, |
| 25 | know, they're left to police their selves | 25 |  | they're profiting money from having their |
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| 1 | and they're the ones, how do I put it? If I | 1 |  | vehicle on the road, because every driver |
| 2 | had a brother or you had a sister or an aunt | 2 |  | that gets in that car, they're charging |
| 3 | or an uncle who needed to borrow your | 3 |  | \$15.00 a shift. In some cases, depending on |
| 4 | vehicle to go to the supermarket, if you | 4 |  | your abstract, they're charging them $\$ 30.00$. |
| 5 | knew they just weren't fit to be on the | 5 |  | You got a bad abstract and you want to come |
| 6 | road, you certainly wouldn't give them your | 6 |  | to work with us, well, you know what, you |
| 7 | vehicle, right? You know, we're responsible | 7 |  | know--and it's happening. Like you do the |
| 8 | for our own insurance. I'm liable for who I | 8 |  | math on a 15 -hour shift, 365 days of the |
| 9 | give my vehicle to; therefore, I make sure | 9 |  | year, that vehicle has the potential to take |
| 10 | the people that I'm turning my vehicle over | 10 |  | in \$10,000 and they're grouping me with them |
| 11 | to and my insurance, I'm making sure that | 11 |  | and there's no comparison. |
| 12 | they are fit to be on the road. I'm not | 12 | CHAIR: |  |
| 13 | here to say the insurance is taking in too | 13 | Q. | Mr. Earle, can you tell me about the scope |
| 14 | much or paying out too much. All I want to | 14 |  | of your three drivers? |
| 15 | do is to be able to go in and to be able to | 15 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 16 | shop around and say, "hey, here's my | 16 | A. | The three drivers? Yeah. |
| 17 | abstract for the last 23 years, I got three | 17 | CHAIR: |  |
| 18 | vehicles, you have my three drivers' | 18 |  | Three cars? |
| 19 | abstracts". I'm in the unique situation | 19 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 20 | where my--I'm grouped in a category as high | 20 | A. | Yeah. |
| 21 | risk, when you consider the other cab | 21 | CHAIR: |  |
| 22 | companies, and there's no need to name them, | 22 | Q. | And so, you're not a full time, like you're |
| 23 | because then it'll seem like I'm picking on | 23 |  | not 24/7? |
| 24 | one over the other, but when the driver gets | 24 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 25 | out of that vehicle, what's supposed to be a | 25 | A. | No. |


|  |  | Page 9 |  |  | Page 11 |
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| 1 | CHAIR: |  | 1 |  | Facility". That's what he says to me. I |
| 2 | Q. | So, what would be your normal, sort of, | 2 |  | didn't open my mouth, I just walked in the |
| 3 |  | operation? | 3 |  | door and I said, "yeah, fair enough", I |
| 4 | MR. EARLE: |  | 4 |  | said, "but let me ask you this", I said, |
| 5 | A. | I close when the clubs close. | 5 |  | "you're telling me to blame Facility"? |
| 6 | CHAIR: |  | 6 |  | "Yes", he said. I said, "okay, well you're |
| 7 | Q. | Oh, okay. | 7 |  | hiding behind Facility", I said, "because |
| 8 | MR. EARLE: |  | 8 |  | when Facility gets an increase", I said, "do |
| 9 | A. | When the clubs in the Goulds shut down. | 9 |  | you get an increase"? "Oh, yes", he said. |
| 10 | CHAIR: |  | 10 |  | I said, "well, you know, and I know that I'm |
| 11 | Q. | You open when the clubs open? Like are you | 11 |  | not costing you any money, so why don't you |
| 12 |  | sort of - | 12 |  | take me out for lunch? Why don't you give |
| 13 | MR. EARLE: |  | 13 |  | me back a few dollars, why don't you buy me |
| 14 | A. | Well, I open at seven in the morning. | 14 |  | a nice Christmas gift"? What I sees |
| 15 | CHAIR: |  | 15 |  | happening that these big companies are going |
| 16 | Q. | Okay. | 16 |  | to have a monopoly on it and I'm not going |
| 17 | MR. EARLE: |  | 17 |  | to say, I'm not going to say, because I |
| 18 | A. | You know, unless I have a booking. When the | 18 |  | can't prove it, but I'm going to say my |
| 19 |  | clubs in the Goulds shut down, we shut down. | 19 |  | opinion. These big companies now want a |
| 20 | CHAIR: |  | 20 |  | monopoly on the taxi industry. Four or five |
| 21 | Q. | Yeah. | 21 |  | year ago, you couldn't buy a taxi licence. |
| 22 | MR. EARLE: |  | 22 |  | There was none to be bought, the City is not |
| 23 | A. | You know - | 23 |  | issuing any more. Now these big companies |
| 24 | CHAIR: |  | 24 |  | have opened up the flood gates and this is |
| 25 | Q. | What time do the clubs in the Goulds shut | 25 |  | where the majority of the accidents are |
|  |  | Page 10 |  |  | Page 12 |
| 1 |  | down? | 1 |  | happening. I'm pulled into their circle and |
| 2 | MR. EARLE: |  | 2 |  | now all these little independent drivers are |
| 3 | A. | Twelve on the week nights. | 3 |  | dropping off like flies, because a) they |
| 4 | CHAIR: |  | 4 |  | either can't afford to pay the insurance; or |
| 5 | Q. | Okay. | 5 |  | like me, just can't justify it. I just can |
| 6 | MR. EARLE: |  | 6 |  | not justify paying the amount of insurance |
| 7 | A. | I have one vehicle that I have insured that | 7 |  | that I'm paying. |
| 8 |  | only operates 18 hours a week. I have it on | 8 | CHAIR: |  |
| 9 |  | Friday night, it comes on at six and it's | 9 | Q. | So - |
| 10 |  | gone home at four; and Saturday night it | 10 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 11 |  | comes on at six and it's gone home at four. | 11 | A. | Go ahead. |
| 12 |  | That vehicle doesn't move for the rest of | 12 | CHAIR: |  |
| 13 |  | the week. | 13 | Q. | No, I was going to say, so, over the last-- |
| 14 | CHAIR: |  | 14 |  | so your three vehicles, how have your |
| 15 | Q. | And they're your vehicles? | 15 |  | insurance costs changed in the last five |
| 16 | MR. EARLE: |  | 16 |  | years, say? I'm just trying to think if |
| 17 | A. | They're my vehicles. | 17 |  | that's above our window then we've seen this |
| 18 | CHAIR: |  | 18 |  | - |
| 19 | Q. | Registered in your - | 19 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 20 | MR. EARLE: |  | 20 | A. | My vehicles, five years ago? |
| 21 | A. | I go into my insurance company and there | 21 | CHAIR: |  |
| 22 |  | about a month ago, and my insurance agent | 22 | Q. | Yeah. |
| 23 |  | meets me at the door and he laughs as soon | 23 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 24 |  | as he sees me coming. He knows why I'm | 24 | A. | Five years ago, my insurance for two |
| 25 |  | there. He laughs, "don't blame me, blame | 25 |  | vehicles was $\$ 3,850$. |


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| 1 | CHAIR: |  | 1 |  | what, let's--you take your vehicle to |
| 2 | Q. | Total? | 2 |  | wherever you want to take it and get it |
| 3 | MR. EARLE: |  | 3 |  | fixed and I'll pay for it, because I don't |
| 4 | A. | For two cars. | 4 |  | want to claim against my insurance, but the |
| 5 | CHAIR: |  | 5 |  | situation that I'm in now, if I ding your |
| 6 | Q. | For two, yeah. | 6 |  | door and I ding yours and I hope I ding |
| 7 | MR. EARLE: |  | 7 |  | yours, then you can all go to the insurance. |
| 8 | A. | That's what I was paying, $\$ 3,850$. | 8 |  | There's no advantage to me being a good |
| 9 | CHAIR: |  | 9 |  | cautious driver. None. And what I see |
| 10 | Q. | Uh-hm. | 10 |  | happening and people are losing site of |
| 11 | MR. EARLE: |  | 11 |  | this, what I see happening, because I'm |
| 12 | A. | Now, for three cars, I'm paying \$17,000 plus | 12 |  | grouped here on the Avalon as a City of St. |
| 13 |  | tax. So, I decided I was going to take a | 13 |  | John's taxi driver, you take the communities |
| 14 |  | vehicle off, which a) hurts my business and | 14 |  | in Bay Bulls and Witless Bay and Torbay and |
| 15 |  | b)--or I take that back, because the | 15 |  | all these little communities outside of St. |
| 16 |  | business is nothing without my customers. | 16 |  | John's, who are nickel and diming, but |
| 17 |  | First and foremost is it hurts my customers. | 17 |  | they're doing our Province a great justice. |
| 18 |  | I decided I was going to take a vehicle off | 18 |  | They're bringing seniors to the supermarkets |
| 19 |  | the road. My insurance company says, "oh, | 19 |  | and their doctor appointments, they're |
| 20 |  | hang on a minute", because that's the only | 20 |  | keeping impaired drivers off our roads. |
| 21 |  | way I can see to cut back on costs, because | 21 |  | What happens to them? What happens when the |
| 22 |  | I'm just about out of business and my | 22 |  | people in Bay Bulls or the Goulds or Torbay |
| 23 |  | insurance company says to me, "if you take a | 23 |  | or Pouch Cove, when those little mom-and-pop |
| 24 |  | car off the road now, if and when you ever | 24 |  | businesses can't stay in business because of |
| 25 |  | decide to put it back on, you start as brand | 25 |  | these big companies, because this is where |
|  |  | Page 14 |  |  | Page 16 |
| 1 |  | new again". Start as brand new? I've been | 1 |  | the problem lies, this is where it is and, |
| 2 |  | driving for 11 since I'm 17, I started with | 2 |  | you know, we were all united as a one and |
| 3 |  | Purolator Courier. How do I start as brand | 3 |  | then it just fell apart. I'm here to speak |
| 4 |  | new? | 4 |  | for me and the little people. I'm grouped |
| 5 | CHAIR: |  | 5 |  | in a category that I don't belong in. I |
| 6 | Q. | So, they would rate you as a new - | 6 |  | just don't belong in it. So, what do we do? |
| 7 | MR. EARLE: |  | 7 |  | Do we shut down and then do the people of |
| 8 | A. | Brand new, brand new. Hang on now, that | 8 |  | the Goulds--you pick up the phone, you pick |
| 9 |  | don't make a whole lot of sense to me, but | 9 |  | up the phone on a Friday night and you ask |
| 10 |  | here's what you can do, Mr. Earle, you park | 10 |  | City Wide or Newfound or Gullivers or Jiffy |
| 11 |  | your car and you give us seven or eight | 11 |  | or Bugdens, "can you come pick me up at the |
| 12 |  | hundred dollars a year for nothing, just to | 12 |  | Hayloft Lounge and bring me to Keith Drive"? |
| 13 |  | leave that policy active. You can't move | 13 |  | "No, sir, we will not". |
| 14 |  | it, you can't take that car and go down to | 14 | CHAIR: |  |
| 15 |  | the store, but we're going to charge you | 15 | Q. | So, do you mostly--is your business mostly |
| 16 |  | money just to keep that policy alive. And | 16 |  | confined to the Goulds area? |
| 17 |  | I'm thinking, you're robbing me, you're | 17 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 18 |  | robbing me. There is no--right now, there's | 18 | A. | Ninety percent of my business is in the |
| 19 |  | no advantage to me to be a good driver. | 19 |  | Goulds, Mount Pearl and surrounding areas. |
| 20 |  | Where are the rewards for being a good | 20 | CHAIR: |  |
| 21 |  | driver? If I go out on the parking lot here | 21 | Q. | So, you wouldn't be doing much past into the |
| 22 |  | today, God forbid, and I open my door and | 22 |  | St. John's - |
| 23 |  | the wind take my door, I don't need to be | 23 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 24 |  | moving, the wind takes my door and I ding | 24 | A. | If I hit St. John's--if I hit George Street, |
| 25 |  | somebody's new vehicle. Geez, you know | 25 |  | we'll say, that's--if I hit George Street 20 |


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| 1 |  | times a month, that's being generous. | 1 | Q. | Okay. |
| 2 | CHAIR: |  | 2 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 3 | Q. | Okay. | 3 | A. | My insurance says to me, "who's driving the |
| 4 | MR. EARLE: |  | 4 |  | second car"? "Harvard Gilland (phonetic) |
| 5 | A. | That's being very generous on my behalf. | 5 |  | is". "Okay, well, we need an abstract from |
| 6 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: | 6 |  | him". "Okay, here you go". |
| 7 | Q. | Your taxi licence is issued by the City of | 7 | CHAIR: |  |
| 8 |  | St. John's, is that correct? | 8 | Q. | And you deal with the broker, do you? |
| 9 | MR. EARLE: |  | 9 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 10 | A. | Yes. | 10 | A. | Yeah, and as soon as I try to talk to them, |
| 11 | CHAIR: |  | 11 |  | they laugh at me. |
| 12 | Q. | You can go - | 12 | CHAIR: |  |
| 13 | MR. EARLE: |  | 13 | Q. | Yeah. |
| 14 | A. | I can - | 14 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 15 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: | 15 | A. | They say, "well, don't blame us, blame |
| 16 | Q. | You can, you have the right - | 16 |  | Facility". I went down to City Hall, I want |
| 17 | MR. EARLE: |  | 17 |  | to say the second last business day of |
| 18 | A. | Yeah, no, I can go wherever I want to go, | 18 |  | March, because I left it until the last |
| 19 |  | which brings me to, which brings me to--when | 19 |  | minute to get my taxi licences renewed, |
| 20 |  | I got my taxi--when I just renewed my taxi | 20 |  | because I didn't know. I just didn't know. |
| 21 |  | licence, and again, your mind is just all | 21 | CHAIR: |  |
| 22 |  | over the place, and I'm not here to say, you | 22 | Q. | You didn't know if you were going to renew |
| 23 |  | know, like to hear the taxi drivers say, or | 23 |  | them? |
| 24 |  | the commission, or the association saying, | 24 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 25 |  | "oh, there needs to be a cap on this and | 25 | A. | No. I'm walking down the ramp, the only |
|  |  | Page 18 |  |  | Page 20 |
| 1 |  | there needs to be a cap"--well, I don't know | 1 |  | reason I did renew them, because at 47 years |
| 2 |  | what to tell you. All I'm worried about is | 2 |  | old, I don't know what I'd do, I don't know |
| 3 |  | what the good drivers are being charged as | 3 |  | where I'd go to work to. I don't know. I'm |
| 4 |  | to oppose the bad drivers. That's--whatever | 4 |  | walking down the ramp from the Annex |
| 5 |  | they--I'm not educated enough to say there | 5 |  | building into City Hall, like down to the |
| 6 |  | needs to be a cap on this or there needs to | 6 |  | parking garage and the next two comments |
| 7 |  | be a cap on--what I am educated enough as to | 7 |  | blew my mind. The taxi inspector says to |
| 8 |  | say, here's my abstract, if I leave here | 8 |  | me, "fellows, you must be finding it some |
| 9 |  | today and I want personal insurance, the | 9 |  | hard now with the insurance rates". I said, |
| 10 |  | first thing they'd want to see is my | 10 |  | "It just about got me crippled, it just |
| 11 |  | driver's licence. | 11 |  | about got me out of business", and he turns |
| 12 | CHAIR: |  | 12 |  | to me and he says to me, "would you be |
| 13 | Q. | And your other drivers, your other two | 13 |  | interested in selling your taxi licence"? |
| 14 |  | drivers? | 14 |  | "No, I'm not, no". |
| 15 | MR. EARLE: |  | 15 | CHAIR: |  |
| 16 | A. | Clean slate, clean slate. | 16 | Q. | Who would you see it--like how does that |
| 17 | CHAIR: |  | 17 |  | happen? |
| 18 | Q. | And would you require that on a - | 18 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 19 | M. EARLE: |  | 19 | A. | It was a very, it was a very odd question. |
| 20 | A. | Not a ticket. | 20 |  | You'd sell them to the bigger companies. |
| 21 | CHAIR: |  | 21 | CHAIR: |  |
| 22 | Q. | You require that of your drivers? | 22 | Q. | Oh, like they don't buy them back from--the |
| 23 | MR. EARLE: |  | 23 |  | commission don't buy them back? |
| 24 | A. | My insurance does. | 24 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 25 | CHAIR: |  | 25 | A. | No, no, and I said to myself, like, what a |


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| 1 |  | question for a City taxi inspector to ask | 1 |  | couple of ideas. We're both right here, I'm |
| 2 |  | you. I'm thinking to myself, like, that | 2 |  | being charged, say five grand and you're |
| 3 |  | just seemed out of place and wrong place, | 3 |  | being charged five grand. Now, you're |
| 4 |  | wrong timing for me, because I'm already, | 4 |  | having three accidents this year. So, the |
| 5 |  | you know, not feeling good about my | 5 |  | Facility decides they're going to bring us |
| 6 |  | industry, right. | 6 |  | both up. Okay, now I'm helping to offset |
| 7 | COMMISSIO | NER OXFORD: | 7 |  | what you've just done. If we go back to |
| 8 | Q. | Right. | 8 |  | here, where I'm at five and you're at five, |
| 9 | MR. EARLE: |  | 9 |  | and you had three accident and they leave me |
| 10 | A. | But what's going to happen--see, we all sat | 10 |  | down here, and instead of giving us both a |
| 11 |  | down as a group. We all sat down as a group | 11 |  | \$1,000 increase, they leave me alone and |
| 12 |  | with the major stakeholders and we all sat | 12 |  | give you $\$ 2,000$, well, eventually, they're |
| 13 |  | down and says, do we put the City of St. | 13 |  | going to put you to where you need to get |
| 14 |  | John's--do we want to--a fare increase on | 14 |  | out of the industry, because you can't |
| 15 |  | the small brokers there, the level-headed | 15 |  | afford it because of what you've done, now |
| 16 |  | people? I said, you know what, our industry | 16 |  | all of a sudden, the accidents aren't |
| 17 |  | can't afford another increase, because the | 17 |  | happening. So, like this is going to happen |
| 18 |  | poor person already is finding it hard to | 18 |  | again in 2018, it's going to happen again in |
| 19 |  | use us, so we turned it down and the bigger | 19 |  | 2019. They're not doing anything to take |
| 20 |  | companies are there saying, "sure there's | 20 |  | the accidents. You need to take the people |
| 21 |  | your opportunity to get money back", and all | 21 |  | that are responsible for the accidents, you |
| 22 |  | I'm saying to them is like, okay, if we need | 22 |  | need to say, "hey, you're bad, this is what |
| 23 |  | an increase and we get--what about the | 23 |  | we're going to charge you. Now either you |
| 24 |  | decrease we're going to get when we turn | 24 |  | pipe up or get out of the industry." |
| 25 |  | away ten more customers? | 25 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: |
|  |  | Page 22 |  |  | Page 24 |
| 1 | CHAIR: |  | 1 |  | So, you're suggesting that Facility |
| 2 | Q. | So, there's a price point where people won't | 2 |  | themselves should have different rates |
| 3 |  |  | 3 |  | containing what- |
| 4 | MR. EARLE: |  | 4 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 5 | A. | They can't afford to use you. I'm already | 5 |  | One hundred percent. |
| 6 |  | hearing it now. To leave the Goulds and | 6 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: |
| 7 |  | head to George Street for a night out with | 7 | Q. | If you--just taking you back to three cars. |
| 8 |  | your buddies, it's \$35.00. | 8 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 9 | CHAIR: |  | 9 | A. | Yeah. |
| 10 | Q. | I live in CBS, it's 60 bucks for me. | 10 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: |
| 11 | MR. EARLE: |  | 11 | Q. | It's $\$ 17,000$. Would that be exactly the |
| 12 | A. | There you go. You know, and like I said, at | 12 |  | same for everybody in the industry with |
| 13 |  | the end of the day, you know, we want to do | 13 |  | three cars or are you getting a different |
| 14 |  | as much as we can to keep impaired drivers | 14 |  | rate with them or have you had an |
| 15 |  | and people who shouldn't be on the road, and | 15 |  | opportunity to have a look at that? |
| 16 |  | we're going the wrong way, we're going the | 16 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 17 |  | wrong way, because, you know, we're | 17 | A. | Two of my vehicles are the same price, |
| 18 |  | forgetting about all these little | 18 |  | because they started way back when, but |
| 19 |  | communities that are out there long. I'm | 19 |  | about four years ago I put on--no, probably |
| 20 |  | telling you, I'm telling you, it's going to | 20 |  | not four years ago, probably two or three |
| 21 |  | happen. And my problem with it is, and | 21 |  | years ago, I guess, I put on another car and |
| 22 |  | here's where I can't figure out how the | 22 |  | that car is a different price than the other |
| 23 |  | insurance don't figure it out. You want to | 23 |  | two, simply because of when it was put on. |
| 24 |  | know how to fix the problem. Okay, well, I | 24 |  | Nothing to do with the driver. It doesn't |
| 25 |  | don't have all the answers, but I got a | 25 |  | have anything to do with the driver, which |


|  |  | Page 25cracks me up. My price is based on when it |  |  | Page 27 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  |  | 1 |  | taxi drivers in our industry that don't know |
| 2 |  | was put on. If I cancel all three of my | 2 |  | where the Goulds is to. They don't know. |
| 3 |  | policies right now, if I phone Co-operators | 3 |  | If you go out to the St. John's Airport and |
| 4 |  | Insurance right now, after being with them | 4 |  | jump in a cab and you should--and, I mean, |
| 5 |  | for 23 years and I cancel all three of my | 5 |  | don't get me wrong, there's streets in this |
| 6 |  | policies, and I phone in tomorrow morning | 6 |  | City, I worked with Purolator Courier when I |
| 7 |  | and say, "you know what, I was hot headed | 7 |  | was 17. There's still streets in the City |
| 8 |  | yesterday, I wasn't having a good day, I | 8 |  | that stumps me, but when you're a City of |
| 9 |  | shouldn't have cancelled my policies, I want | 9 |  | St. John's taxi cab and you don't know where |
| 10 |  | to re-instate them". "Oh, yeah, you can re- | 10 |  | Kilbride is to or you don't know where the |
| 11 |  | instate them no sweat, you all start brand | 11 |  | Goulds is to or you have no idea where Bay |
| 12 |  | new from tomorrow". It's wrong, I don't | 12 |  | Bulls is to, and the cab driver pulls up |
| 13 |  | care what way you looks at it, or how you | 13 |  | along side of another cab driver and you |
| 14 |  | cuts it up, you know as well as I do that if | 14 |  | tells him, "can you tell me where Bulls Bay |
| 15 |  | you decide today to go buy a brand new | 15 |  | is to"? I said, "no my buddy, I can't tell |
| 16 |  | vehicle, the first thing you want to do is | 16 |  | you where Bulls Bay is to, but I can tell |
| 17 |  | shop around for insurance and if you got a | 17 |  | you where Bay Bulls is to, right"? Come on. |
| 18 |  | bunch of tickets and a bunch of accidents, | 18 | VICE-CHAIR: |  |
| 19 |  | well, that's on you. But if an insurance | 19 | Q. | So, do you think the City of St. John's has |
| 20 |  | company tells you all of a sudden today, | 20 |  | a role then to start policing the drivers or |
| 21 |  | well, sir, instead of us charging-I can get | 21 |  | go back to policing the drivers? |
| 22 |  | insurance, full coverage, full coverage on | 22 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 23 |  | my private vehicle, private vehicle, for | 23 | A. | Absolutely. They need to ensure that--but |
| 24 |  | \$1,400 a year. So, Donny Earle is not the | 24 |  | then it doesn't only fall on the City of St. |
| 25 |  | problem. And let me tell you, I do, and | 25 |  | John's, because then you've got cab |
|  |  | Page 26 |  |  | Page 28 |
| 1 |  | they say, "yeah, but you're high risk, | 1 |  | companies, say Torbay Taxi or CBS Taxi, like |
| 2 |  | because you're a taxi driver". Well, let me | 2 |  | the City can play a little role in it, and |
| 3 |  | tell you, I got five children, I do more | 3 |  | I'm sure - |
| 4 |  | driving in my private vehicle than I ever do | 4 | CHAIR: |  |
| 5 |  | in my taxi. I just came back from Triton, | 5 | Q. | For those within the City, I guess? |
| 6 |  | to a hockey - | 6 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 7 | CHAIR: |  | 7 | Q. | If it started in the City, because I think |
| 8 | Q. | Hockey - | 8 |  | if you looked at it, if you looked at the |
| 9 | MR. EARLE: |  | 9 |  | accidents and looked at the numbers, I'm |
| 10 | A. | Let me tell you, you know, and like I said, | 10 |  | willing to bet you that the majority of the |
| 11 |  | right now, you know, they don't care. They | 11 |  | accidents fall into the City of St. John's |
| 12 |  | don't care who's driving their vehicles as | 12 |  | taxi cabs, right. You've got people out in |
| 13 |  | long as they're moving. The City says, | 13 |  | Manuels, CBS Taxi, Cy's Taxi, Pirate's Taxi, |
| 14 |  | "what can we do"? Hospital (phonetic)-- | 14 |  | how many accidents have they had out their |
| 15 |  | that's not going to work. We give them a | 15 |  | way? Probably not a lot, because if they |
| 16 |  | drive, listen, way back in the day when I | 16 |  | had, if they did, they'd be gone, they'd be |
| 17 |  | started, you had to go down to City Hall and | 17 |  | fired. It's not happening our way, it's |
| 18 |  | do a little test. Here's a bunch of | 18 |  | not. They don't care as long as the cab is |
| 19 |  | streets, you need to jumble them all | 19 |  | moving, and now I'm dragged into their |
| 20 |  | together and tell us the quickest route to | 20 |  | circle and it's guilt by association. I'm |
| 21 |  | get there, because the quickest route is the | 21 |  | being discriminated against, because I'm not |
| 22 |  | cheapest route, right. And you needed to | 22 |  | given the opportunity now to provide for my |
| 23 |  | pass a little test with the City. A test | 23 |  | family because of the actions of others. |
| 24 |  | that nobody ever failed, you know what I | 24 |  | It's wrong. |
| 25 |  | mean? But you still had to do it. We got | 25 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: |


|  | Q | Page 29 |  |  | Page 31 <br> horn is working and that's it, you're on out |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  | You mentioned you had some contact with the | 1 |  |  |
| 2 |  | inspectors of the City of St. John's some | 2 |  | the door. What they're mostly concerned |
| 3 |  | time ago? | 3 |  | with is the meter. They take you on a |
| 4 | MR. EARLE: |  | 4 |  | little run, make sure that your meter is |
| 5 | A. | Yeah. | 5 |  | where it should be. |
| 6 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: | 6 | CHAIR: |  |
| 7 | Q. | Some comments that came out of that, what | 7 | Q. | Do they have any question or requirement at |
| 8 |  | role does the inspection aspect in St . | 8 |  | all for you to document the drivers of your |
| 9 |  | John's play in your life, with regards to | 9 |  | cars, in terms of if they have their |
| 10 |  | running your taxi business? I mean, do you | 10 |  | licences? |
| 11 |  | have to go there certain times? Once a | 11 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 12 |  | year? | 12 | A. | Not a thing. |
| 13 | MR. EARLE: |  | 13 | CHAIR: |  |
| 14 | A. | Once a year, once a year, that's it. | 14 | Q. | So, you have a licence, you have a driver's |
| 15 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: | 15 |  | licence? |
| 16 | Q. | What do you have to produce when you go to | 16 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 17 |  | the City of St. John's? | 17 | A. | Yeah. |
| 18 | MR. EARLE: |  | 18 | CHAIR: |  |
| 19 | A. | I have to provide them proper proof of | 19 | Q. | And so, you have three cars? |
| 20 |  | insurance, and that's it. | 20 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 21 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: | 21 | A. | To the best of the City--right now, I could |
| 22 | Q. | That's it? | 22 |  | take anyone of these people sitting at this |
| 23 | MR. EARLE: |  | 23 |  | round table or oval table and I could give |
| 24 | A. | And an inspection slip. I don't even have | 24 |  | you my vehicle and put you to work, there's |
| 25 |  | to show, I didn't even have to show them | 25 |  | no one - |
|  |  | Page 30 |  |  | Page 32 |
| 1 |  | that I still have a valid driver's licence. | 1 | CHAIR: |  |
| 2 | CHAIR: |  | 2 | Q. | And the City wouldn't know? |
| 3 | Q. | So that's when you do your renewal each | 3 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 4 |  | year? That's what you have--that's a | 4 | A. | They had no idea. |
| 5 |  | condition of renewal. You have to show them | 5 | CHAIR: |  |
| 6 |  | insurance and - | 6 | Q. | So, they have no role or involvement with |
| 7 | MR. EARLE: |  | 7 |  | the drivers? |
| 8 | A. | Yeah, they come down in the parking garage. | 8 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 9 |  | Once upon a time they'd ask you to blow your | 9 | A. | And my insurance company would have no idea |
| 10 |  | horn and turn on your wipers. This is | 10 |  | until something happened. "Who's Jackie |
| 11 |  | protocol. They'd ask for your headlights, | 11 |  | Glynn"? "Well, she's 25 years of age, she |
| 12 |  | your signal lights. That's it. Twenty- | 12 |  | can drive my vehicle". "Oh, all right, best |
| 13 |  | three years. You see these taxi cabs now | 13 |  | kind, go on". They got no idea who's behind |
| 14 |  | being hauled off the road there last week. | 14 |  | the wheel off my car, none. City Hall has |
| 15 |  | I'm 23 years in the industry. I've made 23 | 15 |  | no idea, City Hall has no idea or the |
| 16 |  | trips, more than 23 trips, because there's | 16 |  | government - |
| 17 |  | time I replaced the car and you had to go | 17 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: |
| 18 |  | down halfway through the season. I've never | 18 | Q. | So, you don't have to get that person put on |
| 19 |  | once, never once been asked to put on my | 19 |  | your insurance policy? |
| 20 |  | emergency brake. And to be perfectly honest | 20 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 21 |  | with you, I got a problem with, what is your | 21 | A. | I do, I do. |
| 22 |  | job qualification to ensure that my vehicle | 22 | CHAIR: |  |
| 23 |  | passes. Like I come with an inspection | 23 | Q. | Yeah. |
| 24 |  | slip. Like they're there just to make sure | 24 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: |
| 25 |  | your lights are working, to make sure your | 25 | Q. | But at what time do you notify the insurance |


| Page 33 |  |  | A. | Tick, tick, tick, tick. Again, one of those ${ }^{\text {Page } 35}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | company? | 1 |  |  |
| 2 | MR. EARLE: | 2 |  | tests that nobody fails, right. I got no-- |
| 3 | A. Before I gives them my vehicle. | 3 |  | and I mean me, myself, I have first aid and |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER OXFORD: | 4 |  | you know, but - |
| 5 | Q. Oh, okay. | 5 | COMISSIO | ER OXFORD: |
| 6 | MR. EARLE: | 6 |  | Is that a requirement? |
| 7 | A. You know what I'm saying? | 7 | MR. EARLE |  |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER OXFORD: | 8 | A. | No. |
| 9 | Q. So, insurance has to be notified? | 9 | COMMISSO | NER OXFORD: |
| 10 | MR. EARLE: | 10 | Q. | That's not a requirement to get your Class |
| 11 | A. My insurance is notified, but what I'm | 11 |  | 4 ? |
| 12 | saying is, did these people with the fleet | 12 | MR. EARLE |  |
| 13 | insurance, they don't know who's driving | 13 | A. | No, no, it's just like writing your permit |
| 14 | those vehicles. Do they all have Class 4, | 14 |  | for the first time. Just like going in and |
| 15 | what is the criteria now for getting class | 15 |  | so, basically, we could take somebody from |
| 16 | 4? Once upon a time you had to have your | 16 |  | anywhere. We could take somebody from |
| 17 | licence at least two years before you were | 17 |  | anywhere on God's green earth and bring them |
| 18 | able to get a Class 4 or be over the age of | 18 |  | here and bring them into motor vehicle and |
| 19 | 19, I believe. | 19 |  | as long as they got their driver's licence |
| 20 | CHAIR: | 20 |  | and all of a sudden, you're a taxi driver. |
| 21 | Q. The Class 4 is? | 21 |  | You don't know the geographics of where |
| 22 | MR. EARLE: | 22 |  | we're to, or what our road conditions are |
| 23 | A. Taxi license. | 23 |  | like or--and they don't care as long as the |
| 24 | CHAIR: | 24 |  | vehicles are moving and that's their |
| 25 | Q. That is the driver's licence that you said | 25 |  | business. But now, all of a sudden, they're |
|  | Page 34 |  |  | Page 36 |
| 1 | you had to - | 1 |  | making it my business, because it's |
| 2 | MR. EARLE: | 2 |  | affecting my livelihood. Like I said, all I |
| 3 | A. Yeah, because once upon a time when we went | 3 |  | wanted is someone to say to me, "Mr. Earle, |
| 4 | to City Hall, City Hall gave us a little | 4 |  | we're going to charge you for what you've |
| 5 | card with our picture on it. "This is to | 5 |  | done." When I get my personal insurance, |
| 6 | certify that Don Earle has his Class 4". | 6 |  | I'm going to tell you, I've got a customer, |
| 7 | CHAIR: | 7 |  | now you tell me I'm high risk. High blood |
| 8 | Q. Then you would put that in your visor? | 8 |  | pressure. I have a customer who's 36 years |
| 9 | MR. EARLE: | 9 |  | old, who, way back in the day when he was 18 |
| 10 | A. And then they abolished it. Why? | 10 |  | he got picked up for impaired, okay. Now |
| 11 | COMMISSIONER OXFORD: | 11 |  | that's long gone, because now he's 36. In |
| 12 | Q. A normal driver out there who got a Class 5 | 12 |  | the last six years he's got two more |
| 13 | licence, you have to have a Class 4? | 13 |  | impaired charges, he just got his licence |
| 14 | MR. EARLE: | 14 |  | back with the course, had to do this "bad |
| 15 | A. Yeah. | 15 |  | me" course. Two impaired charges in the |
| 16 | COMMISSIONER OXFORD: | 16 |  | last six years. He's not paying for |
| 17 | Q. What specialty do you have to get in order | 17 |  | insurance what I'm paying on my third car, |
| 18 | to get a Class 4? | 18 |  | because my third car was the newest one I'd |
| 19 | MR. EARLE: | 19 |  | put on. He's not paying what I'm paying, |
| 20 | A. I went into Motor Vehicle, and I wrote a | 20 |  | and he has two impaired charges. Now who's |
| 21 | permit. Just like a basic permit, like | 21 |  | high risk? Who's more of a liability? Don |
| 22 | getting your permit for the first time. | 22 |  | Earle, or this guy, who has two impaired |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER OXFORD: | 23 |  | charges? He's not paying for insurance what |
| 24 | Q. Oh, okay. | 24 |  | I'm paying. That's ludicrous, and they're |
| 25 | MR. EARLE: | 25 |  | hiding behind Facility. They're hiding |



|  |  | Page 41 |  |  | Page 43 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | her. | 1 | CHAIR: |  |
| 2 | CHAIR: |  | 2 | Q. V | What would they send your insurance company? |
| 3 | Q. | As long as it's with my permission, right? | 3 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 4 | MR. EARLE: |  | 4 | A. V | When I go to Motor Vehicle, I bring in a |
| 5 | A. | And your insurance don't know nothing about | 5 |  | form, and it's good enough for Motor |
| 6 |  | her, right. So, it's wrong. The system is | 6 |  | Vehicle. "This clarifies that Don Earle has |
| 7 |  | wrong. | 7 |  | the proper insurance that we require". |
| 8 | CHAIR: |  | 8 | CHAIR: |  |
| 9 | Q. | But if Jackie, if I lent Jackie my vehicle | 9 | Q. Y | Yeah, it's from your insurance company. |
| 10 |  | and she had an accident, it's my policy | 10 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 11 |  | that's affected? | 11 | A. It | It's a form that I bring in to Motor |
| 12 | MR. EARLE: |  | 12 |  | Vehicle, but when I go down to City Hall, |
| 13 | A. | Your insurance pays for it. | 13 |  | every year it's the same thing. Every year |
| 14 | CHAIR: |  | 14 |  | when I go down to City Hall, "that's no good |
| 15 | Q. | So, that's why I would be careful about who | 15 |  | for us". "Sure, it's good enough for the |
| 16 |  | I gave my vehicle to, right? | 16 |  | Government of Newfoundland". "No, no, we |
| 17 | MR. EARLE: |  | 17 |  | need this, and we need that". "Well, where |
| 18 | A. | Exactly. | 18 |  | is your form"? Because that's what my agent |
| 19 | CHAIR: |  | 19 |  | said to me. "Tell City Hall to send us in |
| 20 | Q. | Absolutely. | 20 |  | their form". "Oh, no, we just need to know |
| 21 | MR. EARLE: |  | 21 |  | that you have this coverage and that |
| 22 | A. | Exactly, it goes back to - | 22 |  | coverage". Well then if those are |
| 23 | CHAIR: |  | 23 |  | requirements that you need, you should have |
| 24 | Q. | So that's why you - | 24 |  | a form that my insurance company can fill |
| 25 | MR. EARLE: |  | 25 |  | out and tick it off and sign it down. "Here |
|  |  | Page 42 |  |  | Page 44 |
| 1 | A. | Nobody gets my vehicles, but to no advantage | 1 |  | you go, have a nice day". Like I hate to |
| 2 |  | of me, because I'm being charged the same. | 2 |  | say the word, but like, the City has no |
| 3 | CHAIR: |  | 3 |  | control over the taxi industry. They say |
| 4 | Q. | I get a sense that you take a lot of pride | 4 |  | they do, but they don't. That have no |
| 5 |  | in the fact that you have a clean driver's | 5 |  | control over what's going on. |
| 6 |  | abstract. I mean that's--for the business | 6 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: |
| 7 |  | you're in, obviously, that's something you | 7 | Q. | If tomorrow morning, you cancelled your |
| 8 |  | feel like you should be able to take to the | 8 |  | insurance, you made a conscientious decision |
| 9 |  | bank. I mean, that's important. | 9 |  | to cancel your insurance, would your |
| 10 | MR. EARLE: |  | 10 |  | insurance comply to notify the City of St. |
| 11 | A. | It's like having good credit to go to the | 11 |  | John's? |
| 12 |  | bank on another mortgage. | 12 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 13 | CHAIR: |  | 13 | A. | Not a chance in hell. |
| 14 | Q. | Right, well, you know, or having your | 14 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: |
| 15 |  | education expense, or whatever you need to | 15 | Q. | Not a chance in hell? |
| 16 |  | do your job, that's the key thing that you | 16 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 17 |  | would see as something, but nobody cares | 17 | A. | Not a chance in hell, and there's not a |
| 18 |  | about it almost? | 18 |  | chance in hell they'd notify Motor Vehicle. |
| 19 | MR. EARLE: |  | 19 | CHAIR: |  |
| 20 | A. | They laughs at me. He laughed at me. When | 20 | Q. | There's no obligation for them to do that? |
| 21 |  | I walked in his office three weeks ago to | 21 | COMMISSION | NER OXFORD: |
| 22 |  | get the proper insurance that I need-- | 22 | Q. | They're operating quite differently than the |
| 23 |  | listen, the City of St. John's doesn't even | 23 |  | City of Mount Pearl in that case? |
| 24 |  | have a proper form to send my insurance | 24 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 25 |  | company. | 25 | A. | Yeah, because what should happen, as soon as |


|  | Page 45 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | I cancels my insurance, someone from my | 1 |
| 2 | insurance company should phone the City of | 2 |
| 3 | St. John's and say, "Hey, Don Earle, we just | 3 |
| 4 | sent you down a form last week saying that | 4 |
| 5 | he has the proper insurance. We're | 5 |
| 6 | notifying you now that he doesn't and we're | 6 |
| 7 | also going to notify motor vehicle". Now, | 7 |
| 8 | they may notify Motor Vehicle, and then know | 8 |
| 9 | the vehicle would request my T-Plate back, | 9 |
| 10 | but they wouldn't notify City Hall. They | 10 |
| 11 | don't even know who to call down to City | 11 |
| 12 | Hall. The City Hall has no communication | 12 |
| 13 | with the taxi, whatever, with the insurance. | 13 |
| 14 | As long as they got it stamped, oh, we're | 14 |
| 15 | good for a year. I can cancel out three of | 15 |
| 16 | my policies right now, and tomorrow morning, | 16 |
| 17 | nobody from City Hall would be on the wiser, | 17 |
| 18 | and tomorrow morning, like I told you, if I | 18 |
| 19 | decided that I wanted to put them on, I | 19 |
| 20 | starts as brand new. | 20 |
| 21 | VICE-CHAIR: |  |
| 22 | Q. | There's many companies just self policing |
| 23 | and they don't have the same standard that | 21 |
| 24 | you hold yourself to, do you have any | 23 |
| 24 | suggestions as to what the Government can do | 24 |
| 25 |  | 25 |

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { be in place. It should be in place, you } \\
& \text { should have to, because let me tell you, and } \\
& \text { I'm in a unique situation. You know, you're } \\
& \text { picking up people when they're at their most } \\
& \text { vulnerable, when they're drunk, } \\
& \text { incapacitated. Like I pride myself. I have } \\
& \text { parents call me, "Suzy is going babysitting } \\
& \text { tonight, is Donny working"? "Yeah". I got } \\
& \text { one bartender that whens she goes out } \\
& \text { partying, she knows she's a little footloose } \\
& \text { and fancy free. I have the key to her } \\
& \text { apartment to let her in her house because } \\
& \text { she's famous for losing her key, and let me } \\
& \text { tell you, I've escorted her into her home on } \\
& \text { more than one occasion, let me tell you. } \\
& \text { And my drivers were, you know, if you put } \\
& \text { your daughter in with me, she's as safe with } \\
& \text { me as she is in her mom's arms, and the same } \\
& \text { can't be said for our industry. } \\
& \text { VICE-CHAIR: } \\
& \text { Qo, is there a role for Government? The } \\
& \text { P. } \\
& \text { Povincial Government in this in the issuing } \\
& \text { of licences, do you think? Should there be } \\
& \text { more requirements for this Class } 4 \text { licence, } \\
& \text { or are they fine from your sense? }
\end{aligned}
$$

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or the City can do or what we can suggest that anybody do to help police these operators that aren't doing -

## MR. EARLE:

A. I personally, the best--because you can't name everybody on your private insurance, we'll say, but when it comes to the taxi industry and that T-Plate, anybody who is going to drive that vehicle, it is mandatory that your insurance company have a copy of their driving abstract. It should be mandatory, because I'm going to tell you, there's a lot of people that are out driving taxis, that the insurance companies probably wouldn't insure--now, I know you can't deny anybody insurance, but let me tell you, they'd certainly want a lot more than 5 or $\$ 6,000$ a year to insure them.
COMMISSIONER OXFORD:
Q. And what about a certificate of good conduct? Do you see that as part of the industry as well?
MR. EARLE:
A. That's something that should be there regardless to protect the public. It should

|  |  | Page 49 |  |  | Page 51 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  | \$ 25,000 is used up. She can't go to physio, | 1 |  | people in your industry, for the drivers, |
| 2 |  | because the money is all gone. She can't go | 2 |  | owners in your industry. There's nowhere |
| 3 |  | to massage. She can't get transportation | 3 |  | else for you to go, really. So, I guess, is |
| 4 |  | back and forth to her doctor's appointments. | 4 |  | that part of the issue as well? |
| 5 |  | So, she looks at me, she says, "So now what | 5 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 6 |  | do I do"? "I don't know"? So, like, do the | 6 | A. | But that's only a group of insurance |
| 7 |  | insurance company know, like, she's no where | 7 |  | companies that all jumped together and said |
| 8 |  | near ready to go back to work, so what | 8 |  | - |
| 9 |  | should she do, just stay off? | 9 | CHAIR: |  |
| 10 | CHAIR: |  | 10 | Q. | Yeah, so, yeah, it's a mandatory - |
| 11 | Q | Was she hit, or - | 11 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 12 | MR. EARLE: |  | 12 | A. | But I shouldn't be considered high risk, |
| 13 | A. | She was in a motor vehicle accident. | 13 |  | because I haven't done anything. |
| 14 | CHAIR: |  | 14 | CHAIR: |  |
| 15 | Q. | She was involved in an accident? | 15 | Q. | And Facility is the market of last resort. |
| 16 | MR. EARLE: |  | 16 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 17 | A. | Yeah, so what do you do, just stay off? | 17 | A. | Last resort, last resort. |
| 18 | CHAIR: |  | 18 | CHAIR: |  |
| 19 | Q. | Yeah. | 19 | Q. | But that's what they're - |
| 20 | MR. EARLE: |  | 20 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 21 | A. | They told her, "that's it, no, you're done, | 21 | A. | But what cracks me up, any insurance company |
| 22 |  | so go to your lawyer and I guess your lawyer | 22 |  | outside of my profession would love to have |
| 23 |  | is going to have to determine now how much | 23 |  | me. |
| 24 |  | money you're entitled to". Well, hang on a | 24 | CHAIR: |  |
| 25 |  | minute, how can you determine how much money | 25 | Q. | Yeah, but they can take you, can't they? |
|  |  | Page 50 |  |  | Page 52 |
| 1 |  | I'm entitled to when nobody knows when I'm | 1 |  | The regular market is not - |
| 2 |  | going back to work or if I'm going back to | 2 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 3 |  | work? "Oh, but your \$25,000 is used up, | 3 | A. | Oh, yeah, I can go anywhere. |
| 4 |  | that's it, you're done". So now what? So, | 4 | CHAIR: |  |
| 5 |  | like, they're using these little--to hide | 5 | Q. | I'm asking-the regular market is not |
| 6 |  | behind. "Oh, \$25,000 cap, that's it, you're | 6 |  | required to refuse insurance? |
| 7 |  | done". "Oh, okay. So, what do I do, just | 7 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 8 |  | stay home?" Are you guys going to keep on | 8 | A. | No, that's right. |
| 9 |  | giving her, her paycheque indefinitely? How | 9 | CHAIR: |  |
| 10 |  | do you determine what she's entitled to, if | 10 | Q. | They can take you, that's my understanding, |
| 11 |  | she's not better? You didn't fix her, | 11 |  | right? |
| 12 |  | right, but now they're hiding behind this | 12 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 13 |  | \$25,000 cap. You're on your own now, see | 13 | A. | Right, but there's nothing in legislation |
| 14 |  | you later. The same way when I walks in my | 14 |  | that dictates that they can't deny insurance |
| 15 |  | insurance company and they says, "don't | 15 |  | based on the type of use, essentially, so. |
| 16 |  | blame me, blame the Facility". And he | 16 | CHAIR: |  |
| 17 |  | laughs at me. Buddy b'y, stop laughing at | 17 | Q. | Okay. So, it's a bit of a - |
| 18 |  | me, man. Shake my hand, give me a hug, buy | 18 | COMMISSIO | ONER OXFORD: |
| 19 |  | me a tea, but don't laugh at me. Come on, | 19 | Q. | So, basically, you're in Newfoundland - |
| 20 |  | right. | 20 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 21 | CHAIR: |  | 21 | A. | The majority of the companies would have |
| 22 | Q. | I don't know if it's unique to Newfoundland | 22 |  | declination rules that say we - |
| 23 |  | and Labrador, but certainly, we understand, | 23 | COMMISSIO | ONER OXFORD: |
| 24 |  | and it's been the case for a while that | 24 | Q. | Yeah, there's no options there for the taxi |
| 25 |  | really Facility is the only market for | 25 |  | industry whatsoever? |


|  | Page 53 |  |  | Page 55 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | MR. EARLE: | 1 |  | you more money. |
| 2 | A. Right, the majority of the companies - | 2 | CHAIR: |  |
| 3 | COMMISSIONER OXFORD: | 3 | Q. | Are you talking about the round-a-bout? |
| 4 | Q. It's Facility; end of story. | 4 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 5 | MR. EARLE: | 5 | A. | The round-a-bout in there. That's too |
| 6 | A. Well, now, and this is the thing. Now, we | 6 |  | foolish to talk about. |
| 7 | were in a meeting down at the Legion and one | 7 | CHAIR: |  |
| 8 | of the major role players in our industry, | 8 | Q. | I avoid it. |
| 9 | who has probably the majority of the | 9 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 10 | licences stands up and says, "Hey, we've got | 10 | A. | It's too foolish to talk about. |
| 11 | a law firm in this city", and I know nothing | 11 | CHAIR: |  |
| 12 | of it, but I can, you know, this is what he | 12 | Q. | I can't drive there, no. |
| 13 | said in a meeting where we had an MHA there | 13 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 14 | representing us. He stands up and he says, | 14 | A. | Like, you know what, but we have to be |
| 15 | "Hey, you know what, if the Government would | 15 |  | politically correct, listen and use your |
| 16 | allow it", he said, "there's a law firm in | 16 |  | common sense. Use your common sense. I got |
| 17 | this City that is willing to do the | 17 |  | no Memorial University degree, but I'm going |
| 18 | underwriting for the taxi industry", and | 18 |  | to tell you what, I'm far from stupid and |
| 19 | they'll determine what they're going to | 19 |  | that's just bad. That's just trouble |
| 20 | charge provided that we brought all of our | 20 |  | waiting to happen, but they're going to |
| 21 | other business with them. So, like, we'll | 21 |  | allow it until they put 1500 accidents in |
| 22 | insure you--we'll give you taxi insurance, | 22 |  | there and however many--"oh, geez, maybe we |
| 23 | if the Government will allow us to do the | 23 |  | should do something about that". Well, boy, |
| 24 | underwriting, but right now, the Government | 24 |  | you know, use your common sense, man. |
| 25 | are only allowing Facility. Right, so the | 25 | CHAIR: |  |
|  | Page 54 |  |  | Page 56 |
| 1 | Government are helping Facility. Listen, | 1 | Q. | Mr. Earle, what's the future for your |
| 2 | open it up and see if there's any other | 2 |  | company if nothing changes? |
| 3 | companies that want to come here and do--I'm | 3 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 4 | willing to bet there are, and I'm willing to | 4 | A. | Honestly? |
| 5 | bet that there be an insurance company that | 5 | CHAIR: |  |
| 6 | will say, "We'll take you, you and you, but | 6 |  | Yeah. |
| 7 | you, you and you, you'll have to go | 7 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 8 | somewhere else". Right, because look at his | 8 | A. | Closing down. I don't have an option. |
| 9 | abstract, look at what we're making off of | 9 | CHAIR: |  |
| 10 | him. Yeah, he's no risk, and that's the | 10 |  | Really? |
| 11 | whole--it's all about risks and rewards, | 11 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 12 | like, you know, insurance is a gamble, you | 12 | A. | Right now - |
| 13 | know, right. I know there's people out | 13 | CHAIR: |  |
| 14 | there I wouldn't want. It brings me right | 14 | Q. | Because of the insurance issue? There's |
| 15 | back to I don't give anybody my vehicle, but | 15 |  | nothing else really, no other pressures on |
| 16 | I'm categorized as a taxi driver; therefore, | 16 |  | your company? |
| 17 | I'm high risk. What's going to happen when | 17 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 18 | they opens up Dannyville in there and | 18 | A. | Insurance, that's it. |
| 19 | everybody can see it, everybody in this | 19 | CHAIR: |  |
| 20 | Province knows that's going to be a high | 20 |  | So, you have the business, you have your - |
| 21 | accident impact area. Everybody can see it | 21 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 22 | before it's even open. Are the insurance | 22 | A. | I own it all, and the beauty in my business |
| 23 | companies then going to say, "Well, you know | 23 |  | a couple of years ago, if I'm not busy in |
| 24 | what, you live in Dannyville and you're in a | 24 |  | the month of May, I'll be busy in June. If |
| 25 | high-risk area, so now we're going to charge | 25 |  | I'm not busy in June, I will be busy in |


|  |  | Page 57 |  |  | Page 59 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  | July. It's not a big deal, but today, | 1 |  | choices. You can walk, get a friend or you |
| 2 |  | because my insurance payment is \$1,700 a | 2 |  | know what, it's going to put a lot of |
| 3 |  | month for three vehicles, if my cars are not | 3 |  | impaired drivers on our roads. I'm sorry, |
| 4 |  | moving now, it's costing me money. It's | 4 |  | it's there if they have no other option. I |
| 5 |  | costing me money to be in business. That's | 5 |  | had a pharmacist, someone who is very well |
| 6 |  | not the way it's supposed to be. It's not, | 6 |  | educated, logic would lead you to believe, |
| 7 |  | when I haven't done anything wrong and all I | 7 |  | you know, she's a pharmacist, when there was |
| 8 |  | wanted to do--let me come in with my | 8 |  | talks of us going on strike, and we were |
| 9 |  | licence, you scan it and say, "geez, you | 9 |  | giving the public lots of notice. "Hey, |
| 10 |  | know what, he'd be a pleasure to have with | 10 |  | we're going on strike". She sits in my taxi |
| 11 |  | us, and his driver, Harvard Gilland, and his | 11 |  | and she asks me the question and I was |
| 12 |  | fiancé, Sandy LeGrow". There's my three | 12 |  | floored, but it's because of the insurance, |
| 13 |  | drivers. That's it, I only got three. | 13 |  | it's because of that. She says to me, "If |
| 14 |  | Well, actually, I got four. One fellow part | 14 |  | you guys shut down and I can't get a cab", |
| 15 |  | time, but when my car is parked or when I'm | 15 |  | and I said, "yeah"--I knew exactly where she |
| 16 |  | off, sorry, my car is parked, right. So, | 16 |  | was going, it's all about liability. She |
| 17 |  | like, I'm not your typical cab driver, but | 17 |  | said if I drives my vehicle home drunk and I |
| 18 |  | I'm being penalized the same. | 18 |  | hit someone, she said, "can I come after |
| 19 | CHAIR: |  | 19 |  | you"? I said, "why, we weren't open". I |
| 20 | Q. | Are there many other similar operations like | 20 |  | tells people all the time, "sorry, I don't |
| 21 |  | yours? You know, like the smaller ones? | 21 |  | have a cab. I'm busy, sorry I don't have a |
| 22 | MR. EARLE: |  | 22 |  | cab". So, if you decides then to drive down |
| 23 | A. | Go out-- | 23 |  | the road because you phoned the Goulds Taxi |
| 24 | CHAIR: |  | 24 |  | and you couldn't get a cab- |
| 25 | Q. | Like if I went to Torbay or somewhere where- | 25 | CHAIR: |  |
|  |  | Page 58 |  |  | Page 60 |
| 1 | MR. EARLE: |  | 1 | Q | It's your choice. That's your choice. |
| 2 | A. | Exactly. | 2 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 3 | CHAIR: |  | 3 | A. | Right, but you're taking that choice now |
| 4 | Q. | That's what you would find? | 4 |  | away from the people. I know, you're |
| 5 | MR. EARLE: |  | 5 |  | supposed to be smart, you're supposed to do |
| 6 | A. | Yeah, you go to Bay Bulls, Southern Shore | 6 |  | the right thing, but take that option away |
| 7 |  | Taxi. It's a husband and a wife. That's | 7 |  | from them. Take that option away from them. |
| 8 |  | it. | 8 |  | "What do you mean there's no taxi in Bay |
| 9 | CHAIR: |  | 9 |  | Bulls"? "Oh, there's no taxi there"? |
| 10 | Q. | Would be feeling the same pressure as you? | 10 |  | Northwest Taxi are not going up there for a |
| 11 | MR. EARLE: |  | 11 |  | \$5.00 run, that don't make business sense, |
| 12 | A. | Same thing, husband and a wife. So, I mean, | 12 |  | but if you make it that these little mom/pa |
| 13 |  | their cars are not running 24/7. | 13 |  | businesses have to shut down because you're |
| 14 | CHAIR: |  | 14 |  | treating us like the big businesses, what |
| 15 | Q. | No. | 15 |  | option do people have? What option do-- |
| 16 | MR. EARLE: |  | 16 |  | you're taking that option away from |
| 17 | A. | You know what I mean. You know, but you | 17 |  | Newfoundlanders to be smart and do the right |
| 18 |  | take that out of there, you take that cab | 18 |  | thing. Do the right thing, phone the cab. |
| 19 |  | company out of there, Goulds Taxi is not | 19 |  | Well, there's neither one to phone. |
| 20 |  | going to Mobile to bring you to Witless Bay, | 20 | CHAIR: |  |
| 21 |  | so if you're at Anthony O'Brien's, which is | 21 | Q. | So, you haven't had any experience, you |
| 22 |  | in Bay Bulls and you're after having seven | 22 |  | haven't had any claims against - |
| 23 |  | or eight beers and you only wants to go to | 23 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 24 |  | Cemetery Lane, which is like going from here | 24 | A. | None. |
| 25 |  | to McDonalds, well then, you got three | 25 | CHAIR: |  |


|  |  | Page 61 |  |  | Page 63 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Q. | So, you don't have any experience dealing | 1 |  | your policy starts--policy starts brand new |
| 2 |  | with a claim or how it was handled, or - | 2 |  | with a brand-new driver's licence. Okay, |
| 3 | MR. EARLE: |  | 3 |  | now you earn respect. |
| 4 | A. | None. | 4 | CHAIR: |  |
| 5 | CHAIR: |  | 5 | Q. | So, have you been dealing with the same |
| 6 | Q. | All right, that's impressive. | 6 |  | broker? You've been in business 23 years, |
| 7 | MR. EARLE: |  | 7 |  | you said? |
| 8 | A. | But I'm being charged like I got four | 8 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 9 |  | impaired charges, five speeding tickets and | 9 | A. | Same broker, 23 years. |
| 10 |  | two accidents. Like, you know what I mean? | 10 | CHAIR: |  |
| 11 | COMMISSIO | NER OXFORD: | 11 | Q. | So, same broker right through? |
| 12 | Q. | Yeah. | 12 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 13 | MR. EARLE: |  | 13 | A. | Yeah. |
| 14 | A. | It's wrong, and I don't care what way you | 14 | CHAIR: |  |
| 15 |  | looks at it, it's wrong. They're being | 15 | Q. | Co-operators? |
| 16 |  | allowed to abuse me. I'm being abused bad, | 16 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 17 |  | because it's going to take away my | 17 | A. | Yeah, but now, they changed hands. One |
| 18 |  | livelihood, it's going to, and at 46 years | 18 |  | fellow retired and the next fellow come on. |
| 19 |  | old, or 47 years old, I'm too old to go work | 19 | CHAIR: |  |
| 20 |  | with a pick and shovel. | 20 | Q. | And who it is is neither here nor there. |
| 21 | CHAIR: |  | 21 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 22 | Q. | When is your policy up for renewal? | 22 | A. | And I'm lucky, I'm lucky. My insurance |
| 23 | MR. EARLE: |  | 23 |  | allows me to pay it monthly. There's some |
| 24 | A. | Oh, in October, oh, they're going to stick | 24 |  | cab drivers out there who have to go borrow. |
| 25 |  | me then. | 25 |  | They have to go borrow. If they got one car |
|  |  | Page 62 |  |  | Page 64 |
| 1 | CHAIR: |  | 1 |  | and they're being charged 8 or $\$ 9,000$, they |
| 2 | Q. | Yeah, because you haven't got-so you | 2 |  | got to come up with that 8 or $\$ 9,000$ up |
| 3 |  | haven't seen a flow through of-yes. | 3 |  | front. |
| 4 | MR. EARLE: |  | 4 | CHAIR: |  |
| 5 | A. | I missed it, I missed it. | 5 | Q. | So, have you always been with Facility, as |
| 6 | CHAIR: |  | 6 |  | far as you - |
| 7 | Q. | So, you're going to have another - | 7 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 8 | MR. EARLE: |  | 8 | A. | I don't--I never heard tell of Facility, I |
| 9 | A. | I'm going to have another dandy. So, like I | 9 |  | don't know where they come from. Facility |
| 10 |  | said to her, I said, "well, I'm going to | 10 |  | who? I'd like to take Facility out for |
| 11 |  | take the third car off, so that at least my | 11 |  | dinner, let me tell you. |
| 12 |  |  | 12 | CHAIR: |  |
| 13 | CHAIR: |  | 13 | Q. | So, when did this awareness go--like since |
| 14 | Q. | That was your discussion? | 14 |  | the increases started happening in the last |
| 15 | MR. EARLE: |  | 15 |  | - |
| 16 | A. | At least my payments will stay where they're | 16 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 17 |  | to now. At least I can stay in business. | 17 | A. | When I noticed my insurance. |
| 18 |  | "oh, yeah, but if you put it back on, it's | 18 | CHAIR: |  |
| 19 |  | going to cost you more money". "But you can | 19 | Q. | Okay. So, you don't know really who you |
| 20 |  | leave it on, we'll charge you 8 or \$900". | 20 |  | were being unwritten by prior to that? |
| 21 |  | For what? To leave it in the yard and throw | 21 |  | Chances are it was Facility, but it was just |
| 22 |  | rocks at it. You're going to charge me | 22 |  | since the increases came, that's when - |
| 23 |  | money just so that you guys can keep the | 23 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 24 |  | policy alive? I never ever heard tell of, | 24 | A. | But if they want to help, if they want to |
| 25 |  | until now, until the last four years that | 25 |  | help their line of business, tell me, like, |



|  | Page 69 |  |  | Page 71 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | COMMISSIONER OXFORD: | 1 |  | charges. And you know, hey, everybody is |
| 2 | Q. That's true, for a lot more than the taxi | 2 |  | allowed to make mistakes, but they're being |
| 3 | drivers. | 3 |  | charged the same as what I'm being charged. |
| 4 | MR. EARLE: | 4 |  | That's wrong. I got a good abstract, I |
| 5 | A. That's the route of all evil. | 5 |  | haven't done anything wrong and it's guilt |
| 6 | COMMISSIONER OXFORD: | 6 |  | by association. But you know what, stop |
| 7 | Q. Yeah. | 7 |  | hiding behind Facility, man. Stop hiding |
| 8 | MR. EARLE: | 8 |  | behind it, because that's what you're doing. |
| 9 | Q. The route of all evil right there. | 9 |  | Like I told you, I walks into my insurance, |
| 10 | Technology, they say technology is great. | 10 |  | they laughs at me. "Hey, don't blame me, |
| 11 | Me and you have a little argument here this | 11 |  | blame Facility". My God, stop it, because |
| 12 | evening, you go home and I go home and then | 12 |  | you're being rewarded too, man. You're |
| 13 | tomorrow after--you go to work tomorrow | 13 |  | getting--on my back, on my back. |
| 14 | morning and I go to work tomorrow morning, | 14 | CHAIR: |  |
| 15 | by the time suppertime rolls around, we're | 15 | Q. | I don't know where we're going to ultimately |
| 16 | both after calming down and we get together | 16 |  | go with all of--you know, we got out report, |
| 17 | and it's all good, but because of | 17 |  | we're going to have, we have another two, |
| 18 | technology, you're barely down over the | 18 |  | three reports coming in? |
| 19 | stairs and I'm still telling you what I | 19 | MS. GLYNN: |  |
| 20 | thinks of you. | 20 | Q. | Two more. |
| 21 | CHAIR: | 21 | CHAIR: |  |
| 22 | Q. I'm impressed though that you can do that. | 22 | Q. | Two more reports coming in, which are more-- |
| 23 | MR. EARLE: | 23 |  | we're going to deal more with the impact on |
| 24 | A. Our industry can be fixed, it can be fixed. | 24 |  | rates. So, some of the things that the |
| 25 | You're rewarded good behaviour, that's what | 25 |  | Government have asked us to look at. The |
|  | Page 70 |  |  | Page 72 |
| 1 | we do to everybody. We reward our children | 1 |  | cap versus deductible and that kind of |
| 2 | for good behaviour. We reward you for | 2 |  | stuff. We may be looking for some |
| 3 | productivity in your job. You do a good | 3 |  | additional information for clarification on |
| 4 | job, we're going to give you a little bonus | 4 |  | this, so we might be back in touch with you |
| 5 | or give you a couple extra days off. I'm | 5 |  | or we'll be having a public hearing in the |
| 6 | being smacked every time I turns around for | 6 |  | third week of May opening up. You're |
| 7 | good behaviour. | 7 |  | welcome to come and sit in on that and if |
| 8 | CHAIR: | 8 |  | you want to get up and say your piece there |
| 9 | Q. Is the converse of that true as well, that | 9 |  | again and say it more of a public way, |
| 10 | you punish bad behaviour? I mean, you would | 10 |  | you're welcome to, but this has been really |
| 11 | believe that those who, those who don't | 11 |  | valuable, and it was very well. |
| 12 | should pay more? | 12 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 13 | MR. EARLE: | 13 | A. | To hear our industry, you know, with the |
| 14 | A. Absolutely. This dude, you got five | 14 |  | numbers and, listen, man, I'm going to tell |
| 15 | accidents, well - | 15 |  | you, that means nothing to me. That means |
| 16 | COMMISSIONER OXFORD: | 16 |  | nothing to me. I don't want a cap, I don't |
| 17 | Q. You pay the price. | 17 |  | want a cap. I'm not going to vote yay or |
| 18 | MR. EARLE: | 18 |  | nay to put a cap on something that I don't |
| 19 | A. You pay for it, man. You got impaired-- | 19 |  | understand. |
| 20 | like, let's think about it. We've got taxi | 20 | CHAIR: |  |
| 21 | drivers in our industry. No, I don't know | 21 | Q. | Sure. |
| 22 | any personally, but I'm willing to bet if | 22 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 23 | you pulled all their abstracts, I'm willing | 23 | A. | What I do understand, and I do understand, |
| 24 | to bet there's taxi industries in this City | 24 |  | if you got a company that's not making |
| 25 | right now working today that have impaired | 25 |  | money, well, sure, they're not going to be |


|  |  | Page 73 |  |  | Page 75 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  | in business. So they have to make money, | 1 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 2 |  | but a cap, a cap does nothing for me. Like | 2 | A. | If I don’t save $\$ 5.00$ going forward, at |
| 3 |  | if I had accidents, I wouldn't be here today | 3 |  | least somebody finally listened and said, |
| 4 |  | saying, "You know what, I'm really bad | 4 |  | you know what, what he's saying is making |
| 5 |  | driver, but I'm hoping I can convince you | 5 |  | sense, because if I didn't think it meant |
| 6 |  | guys into saving me a couple of hundred down | 6 |  | sense, I'd stop saying it. Because I was |
| 7 |  | the road". That's not the case, and it's | 7 |  | told in the Confederation Building, in a |
| 8 |  | pretty simple. I thinks it's pretty simple. | 8 |  | room like this and I'm sitting down there, |
| 9 |  | I thinks it's pretty simple for someone to | 9 |  | and buddy says to me, Mr. Earle, you're |
| 10 |  | say to Facility, "Hey, listen here, if you | 10 |  | starting to sound like a broken record. |
| 11 |  | got a good driver, you need to treat him the | 11 |  | Well, I'm going to tell you what, it took |
| 12 |  | way he should be treated", plain and simple. | 12 |  | everything in me to stay in the chair. |
| 13 |  | You know, I feel like I'm being | 13 |  | Buddy, this is my livelihood. I've got five |
| 14 |  | discriminated against, because of the line | 14 |  | children and where do I go from here? Motor |
| 15 |  | of work that I've chosen. And it's not, it | 15 |  | Vehicle and ask someone? Where do I go? I |
| 16 |  | wasn't there when I got into it, so it's not | 16 |  | can't go to work at a gas station, because |
| 17 |  | like someone can say, "Well, you knew what | 17 |  | that don't cut it, because everything I do |
| 18 |  | you were getting into". This come up the | 18 |  | going forward affects my way of life. If I |
| 19 |  | back door behind me. What do you mean I'm | 19 |  | don't keep on doing what I'm doing, well, |
| 20 |  | high risk? Since when. What have I done to | 20 |  | how do you afford a \$1,500 a month mortgage |
| 21 |  | be high risk, I don't get it. | 21 |  | as a single parent? You can't go to work at |
| 22 | CHAIR: |  | 22 |  | Tim Hortons, because if you're making |
| 23 | Q. | And if you're in Facility, that is - | 23 |  | \$450.00 a week and you're going to make |
| 24 | MR. EARLE: |  | 24 |  | \$1,800 and \$1,600 of it, or \$1,580 of it go |
| 25 | A. | But I don't know where Facility come from, | 25 |  | to go to your mortgage, that don't work. |
|  |  | Page 74 |  |  | Page 76 |
| 1 |  | because I never heard that dirty word until | 1 |  | They're messing with my livelihood and my |
| 2 |  | four years ago, right. Facility, Facility, | 2 |  | way of life. |
| 3 |  | I'd like to tell you what you can do with | 3 | COMMISSIO | NER OXFORD: |
| 4 |  | Facility, but I can't. | 4 |  | Okay, Mr. Earle, you've articulated your |
| 5 | CHAIR: |  | 5 |  | position very well. We are putting you in |
| 6 | Q. | Do you have any more questions? | 6 |  | the face with the other taxi drivers. |
| 7 | COMMISSIO | ONER NEWMAN: | 7 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 8 | Q. | No, I think that was very helpful, thank | 8 |  | Exactly. |
| 9 |  | you. | 9 | COMMISSIO | NER OXFORD: |
| 10 | MR. EARLE: |  | 10 | Q. | Thank you. |
| 11 | A. | And I've spoken enough. | 11 | CHAIR: |  |
| 12 | CHAIR: |  | 12 | Q. | I want to thank you as well, it's been |
| 13 | Q. | Well, no, I just--we got another meeting | 13 |  | really, really informative. |
| 14 |  | coming up as well. | 14 | MS. GLYNN: |  |
| 15 | MR. EARLE: |  | 15 | Q. | You've covered everything, Donny, that you - |
| 16 | A. | Yeah, no. | 16 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 17 | CHAIR: |  | 17 | A. | Yeah, I think so, yeah. |
| 18 | Q. | But as I said, it's been really helpful. | 18 | CHAIR: |  |
| 19 |  | It's been a real pleasure meeting you. | 19 | Q. | And if there is anything else that strikes |
| 20 | MR. EARLE: |  | 20 |  | you as you, you know, you can - |
| 21 | A. | Yes, yeah, and it's been a pleasure. If I | 21 | MR. EARLE: |  |
| 22 |  | don't get anywhere, just let me say this | 22 | A. | Oh, no, just go save me some money. Just |
| 23 |  | much - | 23 |  | give us a fighting chance, because the |
| 24 | CHAIR: |  | 24 |  | Government thinks, oh, we got to change the |
| 25 | Q. | Absolutely. | 25 |  | cap, we got to do this, we go to do that. |


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| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | CHAIR: |  |
| 2 | Q. | Well, one of our roles here is certainly to |
| 3 |  | reflect what we've heard, so - |
| MR. EARLE: |  |  |
| 5 | A. | Go back to the basics. Keep it simple, I mean, that's what they tells you on the ball |
| 6 |  |  |
| 7 |  | field. Keep it simple, here it is. There's |
| 8 |  | people in our industry that shouldn't be |
| 9 |  | there, but they're hiding underneath these |
| 10 |  | policies and if the insurance companies knew |
| 11 |  | they were there, they'd never insure them. |
| 12 |  | Or if they did, they'd paid for it. |
| 13 | CHAIR: |  |
| 14 | Q. | It's been really helpful, thank you, again, |
| 15 |  | so much for the time, it's been a pleasure. |
| 16 | MR. EARLE |  |
| 17 | A. | You're welcome. |
| 18 |  |  |
| 19 |  |  |
| 20 |  |  |
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| 22 |  |  |
| 23 |  |  |
| 24 |  |  |
| 25 |  |  |
| CERTIFICATE Page 78 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| I, Janessa Murphy, do hereby certify that the |  |  |
| foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a |  |  |
| meeting heard re: insurance regulations and taxi |  |  |
| drivers, heard on the 10th day of April, 2018 at the |  |  |
| offices of the Public Utilities Board, St. John's, |  |  |
| Newfoundland and Labrador and was transcribed by me to the best of my ability by means of a sound apparatus. |  |  |
| Dated at St. John's, NL this |  |  |
| 24th day of April, 2018 |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Janessa Murphy <br> Discoveries Unlimited Inc. |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

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