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

Thursday, May 2, 2018

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:

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

Dave Fleming, North West Taxi

ıvıay,	2, 2018		Verbatim Court Reporters
	Page 1		Page 3
1	MS. GLYNN:	1	Q. Good. So, the purpose of our meeting is to
2	Q. Good afternoon. So, I'd like to start with	2	provide an opportunity for the taxi
3	a big thank you for coming in to speak with		operators to come and talk to the
4	us today.	4	commissioners about the issues that they're
5	MR. FLEMING:	5	facing in relation to insurance and what
		I	
6	A. You're quite welcome.	6	they see is important to their industry.
/	MS. GLYNN:	7	So, the Board has been specifically asked to
8	Q. We introduced ourselves off the record, but	8	audit the taxi claims, to determine the
9	to identify ourselves for the record,	9	cause of the poor claims experience,
10	myself, my name is Jacqui Glynn and I'm	10	including any details regarding the
11	legal counsel for the Board.	11	underlying costs of the loss and the high-
12	MR. FLEMING:	12	claim costs incurred, and then, to provide
13	A. Yeah.	13	recommendations to produce these claims
14	MS. GLYNN:	14	costs and possibly reduce the rates for the
15	Q. And we have Ryan Oake, who is one of our	15	taxi industry. Cameron and Associates
16	annalists.	16	prepared a report and they identified
17	MR. FLEMING:	17	possible areas that could be contributing to
18	A. Yeah.	18	the claims experience, but we also wanted to
19	MS. GLYNN:	19	hear directly from the taxi operators.
20	Q. Jim Oxford, one of our commissioners.	20	MR. FLEMING:
21	MR. FLEMING:	21	A. Yeah.
22	A. Yes.	22	MS. GLYNN:
23	MS. GLYNN:	23	
23		23	Q. So, the purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the taxi issues.
1		ı	
25	Board.	25	MR. FLEMING:
	Page 2	l	Doga 1
		١.,	Page 4
1	MR. FLEMING:	1	A. Yeah.
1 2	MR. FLEMING: A. Who?	1 2	A. Yeah. MS. GLYNN:
1 2 3	MR. FLEMING: A. Who? MS. GLYNN:	1 2 3	A. Yeah. MS. GLYNN: Q. But please feel free to talk about any other
	MR. FLEMING: A. Who?		A. Yeah. MS. GLYNN: Q. But please feel free to talk about any other issues the Board will be reporting on.
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	Page 5		Page 7
1	A. Yeah, that's fine.	1	MR. FLEMING:
2	MS. GLYNN:	2	A. No, my brother.
3	Q. Our report is scheduled to go to government	3	COMMISSIONER OXFORD:
$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$		I	
Ι .	on June 30th, and we will be making—we won't	l .	Q. Oh, your brother, okay. Okay.
5	be making any determinations or decisions.	5	MR. FLEMING:
6	So, this provides us with the unique	6	A. He was 15 years old. And most of our
7	opportunity to talk about a whole bunch of	7	brothers and sisters, we basically had
8	issues.	8	nothing growing up. We all had to get a
9	MR. FLEMING:	9	summer job to pay for our books and pay for
10	A. Yes, and then –	10	our clothes.
11	MS. GLYNN:	11	MS. GLYNN:
12	Q. So, please feel free, and if we feel we've	12	Q. Yes.
		13	MR. FLEMING:
13	strayed too far, we'll bring you back in.	I	
14	MR. FLEMING:	14	A. I gave up school in Grade 9 and—to go help
15	A. All right.	15	my father. I was always with him before
16	MS. GLYNN:	16	that. So, out of that comemy father
17	Q. So, with all that, could you introduce	17	starting the business in 1972. I watched
18	yourself and who you're representing here	18	him come home at two o'clock in the morning
19	today? And then you can start.	19	and lie on the top of the bed with his
20	MR. FLEMING:	20	clothes on because he had a booked run to
21	A. I am David Fleming. I'm an owner and	21	take somebody to the airport at five. He
22	operator of Northwest Taxi. I've been	22	nearly went bankrupt twice. I went to work
	*	23	
23	working since I was 13 years old.	1	there for nothing to try to get us back on
24	MS. WHALEN:	24	track, and it worked out. And so, my father
25	A. Thirteen?	25	passed away in 1988. So, he asked me would
	Page 6		Page 8
1	MR. FLEMING:	1	I give up my job and look after the
2	A. Yes, I was helping my father and all of	2	business. It's only a small business. We
3	that. I'm 1 of 11 children. My mother and	3	weren't a big company and we got up to 28
4	father—and my father started in the taxi	4	cars. So, he asked me two things before he
5	business in 1972 with Northwest.	5	passed away, would I look after the business
	MS. GLYNN:	l .	and look after my mother which I've done.
6		6	
7	Q. Yes.	7	My mother passed away in 2011. Now I looked
8	MR. FLEMING:	8	after my mother for 25 years, and I'm still
9	A. I had experience when he started going in	9	looking after the business. I took my
10	and helping him dispatch and all that.	10	stroke in April of 2011, and that was my
11	MR. OXFORD:	11	second stroke. Well, I had one in 2004,
12	Q. Yes.	12	plus I'm a diabetic taking four needles a
13	MR. FLEMING:	13	day, but I just basically wanted to
14	A. And I remember the hours he used to put in.	14	summarize where we came from.
15	We had a home. We never had running water.	15	MS. GLYNN:
16	MS. GLYNN:	16	Q. Yes.
17		17	MR. FLEMING:
	Q. Yes, yes.		
18	MR. FLEMING:	18	A. I seen my mother take our baby bonus cheques
19	A. Or any of that. We had two bedrooms. I had	19	and put it in that business. Now, that was-
20	six sisters and five brothers. I had a	20	-used to get ten dollars at that time a
21	brother who was killed in a car accident in	21	child. And now see, Mother had nothing
22	1968, and my –	22	home. She had a scrubbing tub and a
23	COMMMISSIONER OXFORD:	23	scrubbing board, and she had the clothesline
24	Q. Did you say your father? Your father was	24	outside. We were very, very humble. And
	killed in a car accident?	25	that was on Old Pennywell Road that we lived
25	KIIICU III a CAL ACCIUCIII.		

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1	at the time. So, getting back into what my	1	licence, front and back. And that's how I
2	father put into that business to get it	2	determined if they could or could not put
3	going and to keep it going until he died,	3	that man on their car. It went by their
4	and—when was that? When was that that	4	conduct, what was on that, because I wanted
5	Father died? Oh, in 1988. Yeah, he died in	5	to keep her clean. I wanted to have good
6	1988.	6	men around me. So, I'll start and read
7	MS. GLYNN:	7	this, so I think you understand where I come
8	Q. Yes.	8	from and where the business comes from. It
9	MR. FLEMING:	9	was not an easy road.
10	A. So, even though with my health and that	10	COMMISSIONER OXFORD:
11	things that happened, I got out of hospital	11	Q. Yes.
12	after my stroke. They wanted me to go to	12	MR. FLEMING:
13	the Miller Centre and stay, but I couldn't.	13	A. Winter and summer, you're on the streets. I
14	I had my mother home. He was 83.	14	can go through some of it. Good afternoon.
15	MS. GLYNN:	15	First, I would like to thank the Board for
16	Q. Yes.	16	allowing me to speak to you which I thank
17	MR. FLEMING:	17	all of you. First of all, I would like to
18	A. And I had that business that I had to be	18	let you know my father started up Northwest
19	around and keep going. And so, I said no.	19	Taxi in 1972. I could let you know a lot of
1	1 0 0	ı	things he went through in building a
20	There was no way I was going to do it, and	20 21	
21	so I did Outpatients down there. So,	ı	business. My father passed away in 1988.
22	anyway, when I got home from the hospital,	22	He asked me to look after the business. So,
23	two weeks later, my mother passed away. So,	23	I accepted that responsibility and I still
24	that was fine. I got through that. And	24	am today. From time to time many changes
25	then, a month after I buried my mother, I	25	have taken place, and as the years go by it
١.	Page 10	l .	Page 12
1	buried my brother, right next to her. It	1	seems harder and harder to keep a small
2	was my plot that I buried him in. He was	2	business going. I have drivers at Northwest
3	45. He suffered a massive stroke, he did.	3	Taxi who have been with me 20 years, 30
4	He didn't make it through. So, I went	4	years, and one is 40 years. That's how long
5	through that, and I donated his organs. I	5	they've been with me, and like I said,
6	wanted to do something good, some good to		there—my dispatcher is there 34 years. And
7	come out of it. And so, they got five	7	so, I always thought I ran a clean ship.
8	matches in Newfoundland. So, which I was	8	Like I kept liquor and drugs out of my
9	proud of to help.	9	stand. Like I said, that's why I'd go down
10	MS. GLYNN:	10	and spend so much time around. I have lost
11	Q. Yes.	11	11 brokers in the past two years due to the
12	MR. FLEMING:	12	cost of insurance, and they were all good
13	A. So, I took this over in 1988. It's a	13	and hardworking men trying to make a living,
14	business that you have to be around all the	14	but when they look at the amount of money
15	time. I'd be down around there in the	15	that they have to pay out a year, they just
16	daytime, up in my office. I'd be down	16	said it wasn't worth their while. Most taxi
17	around in the nighttime checking the cars,	17	drivers drive 10, 12 hours a day. Some of
18	and checking the drivers and all that, make	18	the men are hanging in 14 hours a day, and
19	sure everything was going right. And so,	19	Saturday and Sunday, Friday, Saturday,
20	that's the way I ran it. If one of the	20	because it's busy on those days and
21	brokers that was hiring a driver, he would	21	downtown. So, I've been putting money into
22	have to come to me as owner of the stand,	22	my business over a year to keep it
23	and then I would say either yes or no. That	23	operating. Not for me. Not for me. I
24	depended on his driving abstract, his police	24	could have given that business up when I had
25	conduct and I used to get a copy of their	25	my stroke, but I didn't. I owned those men
	the state of the s	ı –-	,,,,,,,,,

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1	something that were there all them years.	1	why I'm doing what I'm doing.
2	And just to closer her up or sell her, I	2	COMMISSIONER OXFORD:
3	didn't think that was fair to them. And I	3	Q. Yes.
4	thought I owed them something for carrying	4	MR. FLEMING:
5	Northwest all them years, and it wasn't the	5	A. Nobody—there's no Brinks truck that drives
6	door, it was not the door I intended. So,	6	behind a hearse, and so, that's my
7	right now I'm still presently putting about	7	personality. I didn't hurt them men.
8	five thousand dollars a month in my business	8	COMMISSIONER OXFORD:
9	to keep it all paid.	9	Q. My personal compliments to you, sir. I have
10	MS. WHALEN:	10	to interrupt you and just say that. You
11	Q. You're putting your own money –	11	obviously have the heart and soul of your
12	MR. FLEMING:	12	business, okay, in your hands.
13	A. Yeah, yeah. And that's what I've been	13	MR. FLEMING:
14	doing. And like I said, it's—most of those	14	A. And when I'm finished at the end of the day,
15	guys after 30 years, they've become almost	15	I could be dead tomorrow with my health
16	like family to you, you know, in your	16	conditions. I could live for another ten
17	working relationship. I always try to be a	17	years with my health conditions, but
18	decent person. I always treated my men with	18	ultimately if you live your life you can go
19	respect. Northwest Taxi always had the	19	home and lie down in the nighttime and say I
20	cheapest stand right in town, and always.	20	helped somebody or I did something good, you
21	My stand right now goes back to—I increased	21	can go to sleep, say your prayers and go to
22	in 2012 and I have not put it up since. I	22	sleep, that's who I am as a person. Get
23	took every increase that was threw at me	23	back to this, in my opinion when Facility
24	through leases, and increases in phone	24	was set up by the insurance companies with
25	bills, increases in wages, and I didn't go	25	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
23	<u> </u>	23	the approval of government, it created a
,	Page 14	,	Page 16
	back.		monopoly against the taxi industry. You
2	COMMISSIONER OXFORD:	2	have insurance companies offer commercial
3	Q. You've absorbed all of that? MR. FLEMING:	3	insurance, but it will not take a taxi driver with a clean abstract and no
4		5	
5	A. Yes, sir. When it first started out in	6	accidents, you're told to go to Cal LeGrow,
6	1972, it was \$75 a week, and so—but I looked at them men like I looked at my father. I	0 7	Facility, that's where they're told to go. And as far as I'm concerned, this was
/ o	•	0	
8	seen the way he worked and I seen how much	8	nothing but collusion. I don't believe the
9 10	he gave for that business. So, I look at	9 10	insurance companies. They got every trick
	them as seeing what my father went through,	ı	in the trade. You'd need to be a lawyer to
11	the way I look at my drivers. If I could	11	understand your policy. I had a car wrote
12	help one of them, I done it. Nobody ever	12	off, I think it was '96 Crown Victoria, she
13	needed help that I was not there for.	13	was valued at \$12,000.00. My driver was
14	That's (unintelligible 18:27). So, with	14	coming down Hamlyn Road, if you're familiar
15	those 11 brokers gone, I'm down over \$2000 a	15	with it, it's up behind the Village, and the
17	al. That'shat I'm d \$2000 1	17	light on Conside Duise was a stimmer of
16	week. That's what I'm down, \$2000 a week,	16	light on Canada Drive, you continue on down
17	and then I have to make up—you've got your	17	Hamlyn Road by the Village. So my driver
17 18	and then I have to make up—you've got your payroll, you've got your HST, you've got	17 18	Hamlyn Road by the Village. So my driver came down there, buddy in this van comes
17 18 19	and then I have to make up—you've got your payroll, you've got your HST, you've got your bookkeepers. You've got your two	17 18 19	Hamlyn Road by the Village. So my driver came down there, buddy in this van comes around two cars parked that were waiting for
17 18 19 20	and then I have to make up—you've got your payroll, you've got your HST, you've got your bookkeepers. You've got your two leases and the salaries, a lot of overhead.	17 18 19 20	Hamlyn Road by the Village. So my driver came down there, buddy in this van comes around two cars parked that were waiting for the light for them to go, and what did he do
17 18 19 20 21	and then I have to make up—you've got your payroll, you've got your HST, you've got your bookkeepers. You've got your two leases and the salaries, a lot of overhead. Now I don't mind—I'm not an owner who wants	17 18 19 20 21	Hamlyn Road by the Village. So my driver came down there, buddy in this van comes around two cars parked that were waiting for the light for them to go, and what did he do but he struck my car and this driver. The
17 18 19 20 21 22	and then I have to make up—you've got your payroll, you've got your HST, you've got your bookkeepers. You've got your two leases and the salaries, a lot of overhead. Now I don't mind—I'm not an owner who wants to live in a half-million-dollar house.	17 18 19 20 21 22	Hamlyn Road by the Village. So my driver came down there, buddy in this van comes around two cars parked that were waiting for the light for them to go, and what did he do but he struck my car and this driver. The car was wrote off. The police come, they
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	and then I have to make up—you've got your payroll, you've got your HST, you've got your bookkeepers. You've got your two leases and the salaries, a lot of overhead. Now I don't mind—I'm not an owner who wants to live in a half-million-dollar house. I've a very simple home on Canada Drive, and	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Hamlyn Road by the Village. So my driver came down there, buddy in this van comes around two cars parked that were waiting for the light for them to go, and what did he do but he struck my car and this driver. The car was wrote off. The police come, they got the reports, there was witnesses to the
17 18 19 20 21 22	and then I have to make up—you've got your payroll, you've got your HST, you've got your bookkeepers. You've got your two leases and the salaries, a lot of overhead. Now I don't mind—I'm not an owner who wants to live in a half-million-dollar house.	17 18 19 20 21 22	Hamlyn Road by the Village. So my driver came down there, buddy in this van comes around two cars parked that were waiting for the light for them to go, and what did he do but he struck my car and this driver. The car was wrote off. The police come, they

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1	description he was given by some of the	1	well what about under my policy, I said, if
2	witnesses that were there by the store on	2	I got to go out of my home, I said, I got a
3	Hamlyn Road. So he thought it was a young	3	certain amount that would cover the
4	fellow Denine. Fine and dandy, they never	4	expenses. "No, no, not in this case. If a
5	did get him. The van he was driving had no	5	tree had to fall on your house or if your
6	license, no insurance, it was sold three	6	kitchen had to be burnt out, we'd cover
7	times without ever being registered by the	7	that, but that's the only way." And I said,
8	last owner. The first owner that sold it,	8	you're telling me that I got to go home and
9	he did not register it as being sold, so it	9	stay in that house, in the cold, I said, as
10	went to three people after him, going around	10	a disabled person and stay in that house
11	the streets. I called my insurance company	11	with no heat. If I had to hit the furnace,
12	and they told me there was nothing they	12	something had to happen, they wouldn't cover
13	could do for me. I had to personally be	13	it, they wouldn't cover my house because of
14	able to identify that driver and that driver	14	that. Well, I said it seems like every way
15	had to be charged. I said, how do I	15	you turn and twist you got an angle to it.
16	identify a hit and run driver? How do I—	16	You know what she told me? Go out and buy
17	well that's the way the insurance is set up.	17	some electric heaters in your home and plug
18	No, not a thing. Now I was lucky my driver	18	them in. I said, do you know what you can
19	wasn't hurt. I didn't mind the car being	19	do? I said, when you're home tonight in
20	wrote off as long as he was all right. But	20	your bed with your husband and your children
21	the police eventually did track down that	21	and you're enjoying heat, think on me, think
22	van, so, well, there's insurance. They're	22	on me. So that's the way that I see
23	fine while you got a policy until you needs	23	insurance companies, been my experience with
24	something, you go there. I spent last	24	them. So that's fine, I got through the two
25	month, two weeks in my home with no heat,	25	weeks. I ended up with a chest infection
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1	two weeks. The oil company that I dealt	1	that I had to go to hospital to be treated
2	with for years, the furnace I have is a high	2	for, with pneumonia and that was out in
3	efficiency furnace. It was ten years old.	3	Carbonear Emergency that I was, when I had
4	When the came to inspect it, buddy who was	4	that, so that's what I got out of that. So
5	inspecting it noticed there was a crack in	5	to get back to it, insurance companies are
6	the thing, so he told me he'd have to	6	pretty tricky people. You'd need to be a
7	condemn the furnace, wouldn't be allowed to	7	lawyer to read the fine print in your
8	use it. So I phoned the oil company, I was	8	policies. You're told what you're covered
9	paying them \$200.00 a year, which I thought	9	for, but you're not told what you're not
10	was insurance, and so I phoned, "Oh no, no,	10	covered for until something happens. That's
11	that don't cover your furnace, that only	11	the way that it seems to be. A couple of
12	covers the cleaning, any minor parts." So I	12	months back I gets a letter from them in my
13	got nowhere there. I went to my own	13	mail, "Due to the severity of the storms in
14	insurance, I was supposed to have one of the	14	the past few years, we have found it
15	best policies they offered on my home.	15	necessary to put an increase on your home
16	Freddie was with me. I went out and they	16	insurance." I said, what storm is she
17	had no way to get upstairs for disabled	17	talking about? What a—what's the name down
18	people, so you come downstairs, they had to	18	in the States, that's where a lot of
19	come down, you meet in a room downstairs.	19	disasters are and that's not here in
20	So I explained to her about my furnace and	20	Newfoundland. But like I said, then they
20 21	having no heat, so anyway, then she started	21	phones me, "Mr. Fleming, this is"—I forgets
$\begin{bmatrix} 21 \\ 22 \end{bmatrix}$	in, "Oh well, your home policy, that got	22	her name at Johnson's Insurance—"calling".
$\begin{bmatrix} 22 \\ 23 \end{bmatrix}$	nothing to do with your insurance. Your	23	"Yes." "I'm calling into you now, I'm going
24	insurance only covers damage to your home	24	through your file now and what type of
25	caused by an accident or a fire." I said,	25	flooring do you have on your home?" I had
L 43	caused by all accident of a file. I said,	43	mooring do you have on your nome! I had

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1	to go through all the flooring, this is	1	are pulling out of them companies, show me
2	ceramic, this is hardwood, this is floating	2	it, their salaries and bonuses, all that.
3	floors. What else was it she was asking me?	3	You show me that, tell them to print that
4	Oh, about the windows in my house, the roof	4	and then go to the lawyers and see how much
5	in my house. I said I've had all those	5	the lawyers are sucking out of the system.
6	replaced, there's new windows in it, a new	6	Advertising day and night, radios, TV,
7	roof on it, I said to her. And I said, I'm	7	billboards, "come to us, we'll get your
8	in the process now of getting a new furnace	8	money", you're wondering why soft tissue and
9	put in. So anyway, she asked me all those	9	all this stuff, unprovable injuries, that I
10	questions, anyway I said the best thing for	10	could go out to the doctor and say, "Oh,
11	you to do, send somebody in and see if what	11	buddy touched off me last night, oh my neck
12	I told you on this phone is any different.	12	here." "Here's your letter, go to the
13	You send them in here and take pictures of	13	lawyer" and then back to your doctor, set
14	the house, the floors and this and that,	14	you up with a chiropractor, go out and get
15	what's on what, the bathrooms, kitchen,	15	some nice massages for yourself, we'll look
16	bedrooms, rec room downstairs, furnace room,	16	after the claim. That's what's going on out
17	check the roof, check the windows and go on	17	there. They're all a part of the system.
18	and on. So, which they did. Sent me a	18	As I say in this, I just finished—told you
	•	1	
19	lovely letter. "Oh, Dear Mr. Fleming, we'll	19	about my car, but I'd love to know how that
20	be inspecting your home in the near future.	20	was done, that you, that a person of a hit
21	We want to make sure that you have enough	21	and run person, how I had to be responsible
22	coverage on your home." This is the way it	22	to identify them and charge them? I lost
23	went on. How nice and beautiful and they	23	the car, \$12,000.00, "no, nothing we can do
24	think you're an idiot. Oh, what I was going	24	for you unless he's caught and charged."
25	to do with that paper, I tell you. They	25	So, like I said, the insurance industry, as
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1	take you for fools, fools! But anyway, like	1	far as I'm concerned, every one of them are
2	I said, I've never, 35 years I'm paying	2	connected one way or another. I'd say there
3	insurance, never had a claim. Same way with	3	are so many brokers that are doing so many
4	my truck and driving record, never had a	4	insurance companies, if you track it and you
5	claim on any of yet, but yet they'll find a	5	look at it, it all goes back to about two or
6	sneaky way to get an increase and get around	6	three companies, that's what's going on out
7	this or get around that. So anyway, when	7	there. It's like the bread collusion with
8	the man finished, he was hired by them.	8	all the supermarkets. Imagine, bread! It's
9	When the man finished inspecting my home and	9	on a lot more than bread, I can tell you
10	that all, he said everything checked out	10	that.
11	excellent and the only recommendation he	11	Now I'll talk something about my
12	made is I got an oil barrel outside that's	12	drivers, what a taximan does. They take our
13	good, he checked it, that's good for the tag	13	kids back and forth to school. They bring
14	on it for another five years. The only	14	the elderly people to their doctor
15	suggestion he made was I put eavestrough	15	appointments and homes. They drive people
16	across where the oil barrel was so snow or	16	to and from work. They take people to the
17	ice wouldn't fall on it, which makes sense.	17	supermarkets and then take them back home
18	So that's fine and dandy, so he said I'll	18	with their groceries. They're out in all
19	submit my report to Johnsons Insurance. I	19	kinds of weather. When everyone else is
20	said fine, that's fine with me. But talk	20	home, they're still on the road, rain and
21	about what they put you through. And	21	snow, they're still going, and if you see
22	there's thousands of stories out there, how	22	the snowbanks in the winters when council
23	sneaky and underhanded they could be. I	23	ploughs them, you jus take Barachois Street,
24	wouldn't believe their report, I wouldn't	24	that you got to take those groceries, five
25	believe it. Show me what their executives	25	or six bags of groceries in each hand and
1 4J	ochero it. Dhow the what their executives	123	or six outs or groceries in each hand and

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1	try to make it up over that mound and down	1	So like I said, my thing is to let the Board
2	and into the driveway up to our house,	2	know that those men are good men. They try
3	that's what taximen does. And the hours of	3	hard, they work hard. Times in the summer
4	work that they work to make a living, if you	4	they could be sat in their car in the
5	sat down and analysed it, they probably	5	boiling heat, waiting maybe an hour for to
6	wouldn't be making minimum wage, and they	6	get a run, or sometimes it could be longer,
7	have the gas expenses, their rent expenses,	7	sometimes it could be shorter, but in the
8	their repairs from the beautiful potholes in	8	meantime, they're sat in their vehicles
9	the City, the snow clearing of the City,	9	waiting for the passengers to call. Some of
10	which I'm sure each of you here know I am	10	them works holidays, no such thing as
11	right, when you got to get up in the morning	11	holidays. When you look at it, they're hard
12	and drive to work, that they didn't put the	12	working good people. Can you tell me how
13	equipment on the road and drive over ice	13	much the lawyers are pulling out of this
14	that thick, how many accidents were caused	14	insurance industry? I'd love to have the
15	by that? No, we're not putting the	15	money that they're spending advertising,
16	equipment out until it's almost over, and	16	open line shows; suppertime, the news; you
17	run the salter over it and here you are, as	17	can go on and on; billboards. "Come to us,
18	a passenger or a driver, you come up to stop	18	we collected \$340,000,000.00" Now if that's
19	because there's two or three—there's nothing	19	not promoting it, I don't know what you
20	you can do, you just slip, touch off,	20	would call it. Now my understanding is up
21	whatever. So how many accidents have been	21	in Ontario when the cap was brought in and
22	caused by that? Nobody don't seem to care.	22	we're the only province without one,
23	Then we're on the road trying to drive	23	everyone else found it necessary, them
24	people, the main artery is still open, the	24	provinces, to bring it in because of the
25	side ones they won't—so you got to tell your	25	abuse. In Ontario, when they put the cap
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	1 age 20		1 age 20
1 1	customer in a storm that the car can't get	l 1	there, they also put a can on the lawyers
1 2	customer in a storm that the car can't get	1 2	there, they also put a cap on the lawyers
2	down to pick them up, that they to drive out	2	down to 15 percent of a person's claim, not
2 3	down to pick them up, that they to drive out because the road is not filled in. If that	2 3	down to 15 percent of a person's claim, not 30 or more. That's what was done in
2 3 4	down to pick them up, that they to drive out because the road is not filled in. If that taxi drives that and he gets bogged down,	2 3 4	down to 15 percent of a person's claim, not 30 or more. That's what was done in Ontario.
2 3 4 5	down to pick them up, that they to drive out because the road is not filled in. If that taxi drives that and he gets bogged down, that's \$150.00 tow job and sometimes they	2 3 4 5	down to 15 percent of a person's claim, not 30 or more. That's what was done in Ontario. Now, if you'll allow me to tell you a
2 3 4 5 6	down to pick them up, that they to drive out because the road is not filled in. If that taxi drives that and he gets bogged down, that's \$150.00 tow job and sometimes they tear their transmissions out trying to get	2 3 4 5 6	down to 15 percent of a person's claim, not 30 or more. That's what was done in Ontario. Now, if you'll allow me to tell you a little story. This happened last week to
2 3 4 5 6 7	down to pick them up, that they to drive out because the road is not filled in. If that taxi drives that and he gets bogged down, that's \$150.00 tow job and sometimes they tear their transmissions out trying to get out of the jams. So it general, I'm just	2 3 4 5 6 7	down to 15 percent of a person's claim, not 30 or more. That's what was done in Ontario. Now, if you'll allow me to tell you a little story. This happened last week to me. I had an appointment with my doctor,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	down to pick them up, that they to drive out because the road is not filled in. If that taxi drives that and he gets bogged down, that's \$150.00 tow job and sometimes they tear their transmissions out trying to get out of the jams. So it general, I'm just trying to say to you that it's not an easy	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	down to 15 percent of a person's claim, not 30 or more. That's what was done in Ontario. Now, if you'll allow me to tell you a little story. This happened last week to me. I had an appointment with my doctor, which is Dr. Hutton. His office is in
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	down to pick them up, that they to drive out because the road is not filled in. If that taxi drives that and he gets bogged down, that's \$150.00 tow job and sometimes they tear their transmissions out trying to get out of the jams. So it general, I'm just trying to say to you that it's not an easy life to make a living at. This stuff here,	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	down to 15 percent of a person's claim, not 30 or more. That's what was done in Ontario. Now, if you'll allow me to tell you a little story. This happened last week to me. I had an appointment with my doctor, which is Dr. Hutton. His office is in Shoppers on LeMarchant Road, so Freddie was
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	down to pick them up, that they to drive out because the road is not filled in. If that taxi drives that and he gets bogged down, that's \$150.00 tow job and sometimes they tear their transmissions out trying to get out of the jams. So it general, I'm just trying to say to you that it's not an easy life to make a living at. This stuff here, another thing I'd like to know, where is the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	down to 15 percent of a person's claim, not 30 or more. That's what was done in Ontario. Now, if you'll allow me to tell you a little story. This happened last week to me. I had an appointment with my doctor, which is Dr. Hutton. His office is in Shoppers on LeMarchant Road, so Freddie was bringing me to my doctor's appointment, so
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	down to pick them up, that they to drive out because the road is not filled in. If that taxi drives that and he gets bogged down, that's \$150.00 tow job and sometimes they tear their transmissions out trying to get out of the jams. So it general, I'm just trying to say to you that it's not an easy life to make a living at. This stuff here, another thing I'd like to know, where is the public's responsibility? Why do we have	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	down to 15 percent of a person's claim, not 30 or more. That's what was done in Ontario. Now, if you'll allow me to tell you a little story. This happened last week to me. I had an appointment with my doctor, which is Dr. Hutton. His office is in Shoppers on LeMarchant Road, so Freddie was bringing me to my doctor's appointment, so he backed the truck up in the parking spot.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	down to pick them up, that they to drive out because the road is not filled in. If that taxi drives that and he gets bogged down, that's \$150.00 tow job and sometimes they tear their transmissions out trying to get out of the jams. So it general, I'm just trying to say to you that it's not an easy life to make a living at. This stuff here, another thing I'd like to know, where is the public's responsibility? Why do we have crosswalks? Why do we have them lit up overway, hand up, "don't go", "walk", picture come up, "walk". They owe some responsibility. They're down on Water Street and Duckworth Street Friday and Saturday night, they tear the handles of the doors! They're running across the street if it's raining, don't look, just right on and you're expected, if you're coming down to jam her up and not hit that person. So some of the onus, responsibilities to insurance	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	down to 15 percent of a person's claim, not 30 or more. That's what was done in Ontario. Now, if you'll allow me to tell you a little story. This happened last week to me. I had an appointment with my doctor, which is Dr. Hutton. His office is in Shoppers on LeMarchant Road, so Freddie was bringing me to my doctor's appointment, so he backed the truck up in the parking spot. Anyway, he helped me out of the truck and into the chair. He has to get the wheelchair out of the back of the truck. But anyway, he was closing the back window of the pickup and the back of the hood on it, so I didn't know nothing, I started moving. So I thought he was pushing me and then I started going a little faster and then faster and I never knew nothing, I heard him roar out, "David, David!" So I looked around, I didn't see him there, so I

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1	started skidding and I pushed harder on it,	1	you're living in the same world we're living
2	like that. When I did, I went like that,	2	in. Look at the supermarket prices, look at
3	rolled over two or three times. He ran	3	how bad the economy is out there. Like I
4	down, there was a man sat in a car who ran	4	said, you can go on. Come across LeMarchant
5	over to help me up. I got up off the thing,	5	Road, how many businesses are closed up? I
6	I was sort of winded, but that was fine, I	6	talked to a gentleman yesterday,
7	got my breath back and all that, went on to	7	Weathershore Windows that put the windows in
8	my doctor's appointment. I didn't get no	8	my home back five or six years ago, gone
9	friggin' whiplash. I didn't get broken up	9	bankrupt. Gone bankrupt, so go across
10	or go after insurances or something like	10	LeMarchant Road, Brookfield Ice Cream is
11	that.	11	closed up, Grouchy's Tire is closed up, the
12	CHAIR:	12	Orange and Yellow store is closed up. Drive
13	Q. I'm glad that's where your story was—I was	13	right out LeMarchant Road, "For Sale", "For
14	really worried for you.	14	Lease", "For Rent", all the way out and you
15	MR. FLEMING:	15	go out and you'll see how many is at—
16	A. Yes, I mean, I wasn't hurt, I was just	16	Stockwoods are gone, you can go on and on,
17	winded and that, but had I been somebody	17	businesses 50 and 60 and older, gone! And
18	might have said this or that or went after	18	then you got the malls in there with all the
19	it, oh I'm going to get a big cheque now in	19	businesses gone out of them. Then you got
20	a few months. That's the game. So if I can	20	Sears gone out of the Avalon Mall, you know,
21	take a fall or a bang like that and not have	21	it's not out there in the economy. The
22	whiplash or "oh, me back is out" or this or	22	people don't have the money. They do not
23	that and when I got flipped, I got flipped,	23	have the money. You have seniors choosing
24	I'll tell you, and all it did was take the	24	between their medication and heat. They're
25	wind out of me. Well anyway, I thanked the	25	out there. It was only last week there was
23		23	•
1	Page 30	1	Page 32
	man for helping me and that. But yet,	1	a picture on the news of an 83 year old
2	here's whiplash. No damage, no damage, he's	2	woman lying across three chairs at the
3	all right. "Yes, I'm fine". The next day	3	Emergency with a blanket over her. 83!
4	you gets a call to your insurance, four of	4	That's what my mother was when she died and
5	them in the car had whiplash. The driver	5	that's what they gave that woman. If it was
6	took pictures of the car in front and the	6	my mother, I guarantee you there would have
/ 0	car on the back. No, not even a scratch on	0	been something, I don't care who you are,
8	either one of them. Four of them collected	8	you love your mother and they're not going
9	whiplash money. So you talk about a	9	to the Emergency for nothing. Make an
10	corruption and there's nothing wrong with	10	appointment with your doctor, takes me three
11	it? And the insurance company won't	11	weeks, and I has to go to my neurologist
12	challenge it. You're paying them, you're	12	because I start taking seizures but that
13	paying them, they will not challenge you.	13	happens when you has strokes, it comes on
14	They'd rather give them the money then have	14	later and so, but I haven't had too many,
15	to fight them in court, that's the bottom	15	but as long as I can draw an ear, as long as
16	line. There's doctors writing notes that	16	I can get around, I'm not stopping.
17	should never be written for unprovable	17	Anything I can do to help those guys out
18	injuries. They're being sent to	18	there, don't care what company they're with,
19	chiropractors by their lawyers. "Here, set	19	anything out there, it's not the company,
20	this up for you now, go get your few	20	it's the man behind the wheel, like I said
21	massages and we'll wait for the cheque."	21	and you owe them something. Now for some of
22	Anyway, so for the Board to pass any more	22	them to drive on my stand, they needs their
23	increases onto the taxi industry, it will	23	license brought up to me, they needs their
24	amount to nothing more than a raping of the industry. You have to stop and realize,	24	driving abstract brought up to me and you
25		25	had better go get your police conduct to

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1	bring it up to me, and now you got to bring	1	that's for if any of them got in any
2	the vulnerable sector part of it now because	2	trouble. Sometimes you pick up three or
3	of all these rates went on, but nobody wants	3	four downtown, they wants to go to the
4	to say they were done by foreigners, nobody	4	Goulds or down to Petty Harbour, you know
5	wants to say it. The government brings them	5	what I mean, which is a scary situation by
6	in here, here's a license. They'd never	6	yourself, if they're going to do something
7	seen snow in their life, some of them where	7	to you, so anyway, "Yeah, that's not a bad
8	they came from. Last year I phoned the	8	idea, Dave. Go get a cost estimate", he
9	Association of New Canadians because two	9	said, "bring it back, we'll take a look at
10	were after coming to me looking for a job,	10	it." I went to Ford and got a cost estimate
11	so anyway, I got no problem, or against	11	done and then I went to Hickman Motors and
12	nobody or nothing, we all bleed red, I don't	12	got a cost estimate done and having it done
13	care who you are and I'd help one of them	13	on the cars. I brought it down to them at
14	out as fast as one of my own, but you got to	14	City Hall, never heard tell of them after.
15	have an ability to get behind that wheel and	15	Never heard tell of it after, so like I
16	do the job. One chap had an interpreter	16	said, City Hall have been nothing but
17	with him, so anyway, the interpreter was	17	negligent in the taxi industry, nothing but
18	speaking for him, so I said to the	18	negligent. They never had a meeting or a
19	interpreter, I said how would it be possible	19	committee in almost three years. I went
20	for me to allow him to go to work on my	20	down and I'm waiting for the meeting with
21	stand, the gentleman can't speak English, so	21	Debbie Hanlon and Jason Synard, so Jason
22	I said, you can't drive around in the car	22	said I'm the chair person of the committee.
23	with him, an interpreter, this or that, and	23	I went down to City Hall after, I said,
24	I said he got to have some ability, how do	24	you're the chairperson of what committee?
25	you communicate with your dispatcher from	25	What are you talking about? Who is the
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1	your radio set, you know what I mean? So	1	committee, who is on it? There is no
2	anyway, after the second one, I phoned the	2	committee, so you're a chairperson of
3	Association of New Canadians. I said, boy,	3	nothing. Now, what are you doing? Are you
4	there must be something we can do because I	4	setting up a committee to deal with issues
5	sort of felt bad, so I said there must be	5	that comes in the industry and all that? Oh
6	something they can do. So I phoned the	6	yeah, but we're only going to talk to you at
7	Association of New Canadians on LeMarchant	7	that time. Anyway, like I said, so
8	Road, so I was talking to her about setting	8	sometimes like I said, it's a strange world
9	up like a training session, they'd be in on	9	when you go through it and you look at it,
10	it, I phoned Ron Ellsworth, the deputy major	10	but like I said, I'm a firm believer at the
11	at the time, and said to Ron, why don't we	11	end of the day that if I does something good
12	try to set up something, have meetings with	12	for somebody, that it will come back to me
13	them, let them do their English stuff, and	13	in some way and like I said, foreigners,
14	the drivers will go there free for an hour	14	I've got no problem, take them all, just
15	or two, explaining the area that you're	15	have the proper training and I asked the
16	going to work in, help them out that way.	16	chief of police, it was a round-table
17	But anyway, nobody seemed interested, nobody	17	discussion, it was after them rapes, and
18	seemed interested. A while back, I think I	18	this was a foreign driver who went—but
19	still got the piece home in the paper, I	19	anyway, so I went to the round-table
20	approached City Council on putting an	20	meeting, there was a bunch there, a
21	emergency light on the back of the taxi and	21	committee there or different groups there
22	just put it down past the trunk or on the	22	and all of that, I said first of all, I said
	trunk and they have the switch down by the	23	to what's-her-name, she's deputy major now,
23	tiulik and they have the Switch down by the	LJ	to what s-ner-name, she sucputy major now.
23 24	driver's door and wrote on the top of it,	24	Sheilagh O'Leary. I said first of all, Mrs.

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1	don't intend to sit here and listen to you	1	MR. FLEMING:
2	condemn taxi drivers who've been working for	2	A. Thank you, sir.
3	20, 30, 40 years of their life because	3	COMMISSIONER OXFORD:
4	nobody wants to say it was a foreigner or it	4	Q. And you have certainly enlightened us to
5	was an immigrant or New Canadian, whatever	5	what your industry does and how devoted you
6	the acceptable thing of the day is. So	6	are to it. I thank you very much for coming
7	that's the way that it went. Like I told	7	in.
8	her, that happened out there. That happened	8	MR. FLEMING:
9	up to the RNC, that happened in the Army,	9	A. Yes, sir. But there's a lot of pieces, sir,
10	that happened in the RCMP, that has happened	10	I'd like to say, lastly, there's a lot of
11	in the government, that happened on City	11	pieces getting paid out of that insurance.
12	Council, like I told her I said, you got it	12	COMMISSIONER OXFORD:
13	here yourselves. You got a councillor here	13	Q. Yes.
14	been charged with (unintelligible) so like I	14	MR. FLEMING:
15	told her, those things happen no matter what	15	A. You have the ones running the insurance
16	you are, what company you are, whatever, but	16	companies, big salaries, big bonuses; you
17	you have to deal with the problem when it	17	have the chiropractors; you have the
18	happens, that's when you do. But do all you	18	doctors, you have the lawyers; everyone is
19	can to avoid from getting in it by getting	19	pulling out of the pot and that's who is
20	your information about that person in the	20	left to pay, the ones, the low ones on the
21	beginning. Do your work and then you don't	21	ladder, so like I said, I wanted to thank
22	really have, you know who is coming in and	22	all of you again for hearing me and I know
23	you know who is going out, so anyway. If	$\begin{vmatrix} 22 \\ 23 \end{vmatrix}$	you got a job to do and I respect that too.
24	all the other provinces brought in the cap,	24	But somewhere, somebody has got to stop, how
25	<u> </u>	1	
23	why hasn't Newfoundland? Why, if they found	23	far can this go? What government wants to
,	Page 38	,	Page 40
	it necessary, why are we the only province		put 4 or 5000 taxi drivers out of work?
2	with it? They just got 13 percent on	2	That's what's going to happen, that's what
3	private insurance. They got an increase on	3	is coming to us. But anyway, thank all of
4	your home because of weather disasters, like	4	you, it's been really nice.
5	I said, taxiing, 244 percent! Can you	5	CHAIR:
6	picture yourself out driving all day and at	6	Q. Thank you so much, Mr. Fleming, it's been an
7	the end of the month you've got to come up	7	absolute pleasure to listen to you.
8	with \$1,000.00 for them and you with a clear	1	MR. FLEMING:
9	driving record and a clean abstract. The	9	A. And me too with meeting you and thank you.
10	ones that had the accidents, let them pay,	10	And you too. I'll make a good guy out of
11	put their premiums that high that they won't	11	you yet.
12	be able to go on the street, that's who they	12	CHAIR:
13	needs to take off the street. It's very	13	Q. We're working on it.
14	simple. Don't turn around and say oh that's	14	MR. OAKE:
15	discrimination or that's this, that's that.	15	Q. I'm not going to make any promises.
16	And so, I'll finish up now because I think I	16	CHAIR:
17	put you through enough for today, but I	17	Q. Mr. Fleming, he's a work-in-progress.
18	would like to thank every one of you and if	18	MR. FLEMING:
19	you can find it in your heart, please see if	19	A. What I always say is when you don't get an
20	you can help those guys.	20	answer, you know your answer, that's what I
21	COMMISSIONER OXFORD:	21	always say.
22	Q. Mr. Fleming, that's fine. I certainly want	22	CHAIR:
23	to thank you for coming. You have	23	Q. Thank you so much, it's been a real
24	articulated your position extremely well,	24	pleasure.
25	under some very extreme circumstances.	25	

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CERTIFICATE	
I, Judy Moss, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a hearing in the matter of 2017 Automobile Insurance Review, Taxi Operator Meetings, heard on the 2nd day of May, 2018 before the Newfoundland and Labrador Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities, 120 Torbay Road, 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, Newfoundland and Labrador this 2nd day of May, 2018	
Judy Moss	

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