

Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Public Utilities Board seeks feedback on Review of Labrador Maximum Price Freeze Policy

The Public Utilities Board is undertaking a review of its policy related to the annual freeze of maximum prices for regulated petroleum products in certain areas of Labrador during the winter months.

The Board is interested in receiving comments and suggestions from all stakeholders, including consumers, suppliers, and community leaders. This review is being undertaken in response to concerns raised following the implementation of the annual winter freeze on maximum prices in Zone 11 (Labrador South Lodge Bay/Cartwright) and Zone 14 (Coastal Labrador North) on November 6, 2008. These concerns arose primarily as a result of a significant drop in the market price of petroleum products in the weeks immediately following the implementation of the maximum price freeze. The Board has reviewed all available information and has determined that the maximum prices set on November 6, 2008 for Zones 11 and 14 should continue for the remainder of the winter period, consistent with previous years. The timing of the freeze reflects the timing of purchases and deliveries of product to the area, and to the extent possible, aligns the cost of the product with the maximum allowed price. The Board acknowledges the concerns and issues raised and is seeking feedback from all stakeholders on whether improvements or changes to the existing maximum price freeze policy should be made.

A consultation document "*Review of Labrador Maximum Price Freeze Policy*" has been prepared outlining background information and issues for consideration. This document can be viewed on the Board's website at www.pub.nl.ca or may be obtained directly from the Board. Feedback is encouraged from all stakeholders on the existing policy, the issues raised in the consultation document, and any other issues related to this matter that should be considered by the Board as part of its review. Copies of this document have been sent directly to those persons who contacted the Board in connection with this matter as well as other identified stakeholders. An advertisement related to the review will also be placed in local newspapers. The Board will consider all input received in determining its policy on maximum price freezes for 2009-2010 and onwards.

The Board asks that all comments and feedback be made by Friday, March 27, 2009. Written comments and/or submissions can be provided by mail, fax, email or web feedback to the contact information below:

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