



PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD
Automobile Insurance Review

PRESS RELEASE

March 7, 2005 St. John's, NL – Public Utilities Board Auto Insurance Review: Public Sessions Now Complete

The Public Utilities Board has now concluded 14 days of public sessions relating to its automobile insurance review. The Board was requested by Government to review the impact associated with implementing various cap or deductible limits on pain and suffering awards, the elimination of rating based on age, gender and marital status and any additional cost saving measures identified during the review. In addition, the Board heard presentations on a variety of other issues concerning auto insurance.

The Board heard over 40 presentations from a broad cross section of interested persons and organizations during public sessions held in St. John's, Corner Brook, Gander, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. These included presentations from actuaries and consultants, the Consumer Advocate, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Coalition Against No Fault Insurance, MHAs Mr. Jack Harris and Ms. Charlene Johnson, union representatives, various insurance organizations, industry associations and a number of private citizens.

In addition to these presentations, the Board received over 120 letters of comment and voice messages pertaining to the review. The Board will continue to accept comments until March 11 via telephone, email, online feedback form, fax, or mail. Please see the Board's website for further information, www.pub.nl.ca.

Government has requested the Board's report by March 31, 2005. Following the submission of the report, the Board will be commencing work on the second component of the comprehensive insurance review requested by Government, which will include Homeowners, Commercial and Marine Insurances.

All documentation relating to the review, including terms of reference, presentations, reports, studies, and daily transcripts are also available on the Board's website or upon request.

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