

MANITOBA) Order No. 13/00
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) January 28, 2000

BEFORE: G. D. Forrest, Chairman
D. L. Barrett-Hrominchuk, Member
J. A. MacDonald, Member

**APPLICATION BY THE CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION OF
CANADA (MANITOBA) INC. AND MANITOBA SOCIETY OF
SENIORS FOR AN AWARD OF COSTS FOR
PARTICIPATING IN A HEARING CALLED TO CONSIDER
AN APPLICATION BY CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC. FOR
APPROVAL OF 1999/2000 COST OF GAS RATE
INCREASE APPLICATION**

A public hearing was held in the City of Winnipeg, commencing November 18, 1999 to consider issues arising out of an application by Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. ("Centra") for approval of the 1999/2000 Cost of Gas Rate Increase Application.

By letter dated December 1, 1999 Counsel for the Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc. and the Manitoba Society of Seniors (the "Applicants") filed the appropriate hearing and summary sheets. The total claim for costs is \$16,966.10

comprised of professional fees of \$15,148.50 disbursements of \$703.94 and GST of \$1,113.66.

The Applicant submitted that they contributed to the hearing in terms of pertinent information requests asked, cross-examination conducted and the position advanced in argument.

The Applicant was of the opinion that there was no duplication arising out of their participation. The Applicant also noted its lack of financial resources and substantial interest in the process and the outcome of the proceedings.

The Applicant requested that an Order as to costs be rendered as soon as possible.

By letter dated December 2, 1999, the Board invited comments from Centra, no comments were received.

BOARD COMMENTS

The Applicant is well known to the Board as an intervenor on matters relating to Centra. The Board is satisfied that the Applicant has insufficient financial resources to present its case adequately without an award of costs. The Applicant represents a group which has a substantial interest in the outcome of the proceedings.

The Board recognizes the contribution made by this Intervenor to the process and would allow the request in whole amounting to \$16,966.10.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc. and Manitoba Society of Seniors' application for an award of costs be allowed in the amount of \$16,966.10.
2. The costs shall be payable by Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. within 30 days of the date of this Order.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"G. D. FORREST"
Chairman

"H. M. SINGH"
Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order
No. 13/00 issued by The Public
Utilities Board

Acting Secretary