

MANITOBA) Order No. 80/00
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) June 15, 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 THE RATE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

A public hearing was held in the City of Winnipeg, commencing March 6, 2000 to consider issues arising out of an application by Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. ("Centra") for approval of the Rate Management Program.

By letter dated May 1, 2000 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 \$71,485.04 comprised of professional fees of \$53,007.00 disbursements of \$13,816.73 and GST of \$4,661.31

The Applicant submitted that they made a substantial contribution to the proceedings in all issues involved and particularly in relationship to the evidence provided through Mr. Pringle.

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 May 5, 2000, the Board invited comments from Centra, who indicated by telephone that they had no comments.

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 \$71,485.04.

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 \$71,485.04.
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. 80/00 issued by The Public
Utilities Board

Acting Secretary