

MANITOBA ) Order No. 130/00  
 )  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT ) September 26, 2000

BEFORE: G. D. Forrest, Chairman  
R. A. Mayer, Q.C., Member  
M. Girouard, 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 PRIMARY GAS SALES RATES**

A public hearing was held in the City of Winnipeg, commencing June 13, 2000 to consider issues arising out of an application by Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. ("Centra") for approval of Primary Gas Sales Rates.

By letter dated August 9, 2000 Counsel for the Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc. and the Manitoba Society of Seniors (the "Applicant") filed the appropriate hearing and summary sheets. The total claim for costs is \$9,854.62 comprised of professional fees of \$8,872.50, disbursements of \$337.42 and GST of \$644.70.

The Applicant noted their belief that they had contributed to the proceedings and offered a balanced view of the dilemma facing the Board and also noted that the Board had adopted the suggestions of CAC/MSOS.

The Applicant is of the opinion that there was no duplication arising out of their participation, and that the hearing was dealt with in an expeditious fashion. 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 August 17, 2000, Centra indicated that it did not wish to make a comment with respect to the application.

#### **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 will allow the request in full, in the amount of \$9,854.62.

