

MANITOBA) Order No. 153/00
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) December 4, 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 THE CONSIDERATION OF AN
APPLICATION BY CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC. FOR
APPROVAL OF PRIMARY GAS SALES RATES EFFECTIVE
NOVEMBER 1, 2000.**

The Public Utilities Board (the "Board") by way of public notice dated September 28, 2000 invited written comments from interested parties on Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.'s ("Centra") Application for approval of Primary Gas Sales Rates effective November 1, 2000. Counsel for the Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc. and the Manitoba Society of Seniors forwarded a written submission to the Board dated October 23, 2000.

By letter dated October 29, 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 \$5,913.42 comprised of professional fees of \$5,262.50, disbursements of \$264.06 and GST of \$386.86.

The Applicant noted their belief that they had contributed to the proceedings and offered a balanced view of the dilemma facing the Board pertaining to the upward pressure on the primary gas costs and the best way to deal with the PGVA balance.

The Applicant is of the opinion that there was no duplication, that the matter was dealt with in an expeditious fashion and concentrated on matters of concern to the Board. 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 November 6, 2000, Centra indicated that it had no comments 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.

