

MANITOBA) Order No. 167/01
)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) October 29, 2001

BEFORE: G. D. Forrest, Chairman
M. Santos, 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 AUGUST 1, 2001.

The Public Utilities Board (the "Board") by way of public notice dated June 28, 2001 invited written comments from interested parties on Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.'s ("Centra") Application for approval of Primary Gas Sales Rates effective August 1, 2001. Counsel for the Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc. and the Manitoba Society of Seniors forwarded two written submissions to the Board dated July 20 and July 25, 2001.

By letter dated August 7, 2001 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 \$4,241.76 comprised of professional fees of \$3,761.00, disbursements of \$203.27 and GST of \$277.49.

The Applicant indicated that they had reviewed and responded to the application on behalf of the residential customers in a responsible fashion at minimal cost as contemplated by the quarterly review process.

The Applicant submitted that there was no duplication. 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 14, 2001, 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.

The Board recognizes the contribution made by this Intervenor to the process and will allow the request in full, in the amount of \$4,241.76.

