MANITOBA) Order No. 120/02)
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT) June 20, 2002

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 AWARD OF COSTS FOR AN PARTICIPATING IN THE CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION BY CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC. FOR APPROVAL OF PRIMARY GAS SALES RATES EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2002

The Public Utilities Board (the "Board") by way of public notice dated April 2, 2002 invited written comments from interested parties on Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.'s ("Centra") Application for approval of Primary Gas Sales Rates effective May 1, 2002. Counsel for the Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc. and the Manitoba Society of Seniors forwarded a written submission to the Board dated May 9, 2002.

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 \$4,955.11 comprised of professional fees of \$4,275.00, disbursements of \$355.94 and GST of \$324.17.

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 May 24, 2002, 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 \$4,955.11.

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 \$4,955.11.
- 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. 120/02 issued by The Public Utilities Board

Acting Secretary