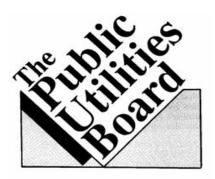
News Release



December 31, 2009

In Order 178/09 dated December 31, 2009, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approved both an interim *ex parte* utility rate increase for the Town of The Pas (Town) and the recovery of the utility's 2008 operating deficit (\$193,127.47) from the utility reserve fund.

The revised rates, take effect with respect to all consumption after January 1, 2010.

Below is a summary of the increases (subject to variances, depending on usage and meter size):

| Commodity \$/1000 gallons | Existing Water | Existing Sewer | Combined | Interim Water | Interim Sewer | Interim Combined | % Inc |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------|
| First 18,000 | \$ 7.25 | \$2.75 | \$ 10.00 | \$ 8.80 | \$3.20 | \$ 12.00 | 20.0 |
| Next 82,000 | \$ 4.75 | \$2.75 | \$ 7.50 | \$ 6.80 | \$3.20 | \$ 10.00 | 33.0 |
| Over 100,000 | \$ 2.70 | \$2.75 | \$ 5.45 | \$ 4.30 | \$3.20 | \$ 7.50 | 38.0 |
| Bulk | \$ 8.00 | - | - | \$10.00 | - | - | 25.0 |
| Service Charges | - | - | \$ 11.00 | - | - | \$ 11.00 | 0 |
| Minimum Quarterly ⁽¹⁾ | - | - | \$ 51.00 | - | - | \$ 59.00 | 16.0 |
| Average household ⁽²⁾ | - | - | \$ 174.00 | - | - | \$ 206.60 | 19.0 |
| Large Volume User ⁽³⁾ | _ | - | \$2,061.71 | - | - | \$2,775.04 | 34.6 |

Notes:

The Town is to provide notice to its ratepayers of the decision of the Public Utilities Board and of the immediate rate increase.

Board Order No. 178/09 is available for review on the Board's website: www.pub.gov.mb.ca

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⁽¹⁾ Includes 4,000 gallons

⁽²⁾ Using 16,300 gallons per quarter

⁽³⁾ Using ~ 330,405 gallons per quarter