The PUB Post – Fall Newsletter 2026

The PUB is Manitoba's independent regulator of rates for essential services – electricity, natural gas, and water/wastewater. PUB's job is to make sure rates are fair, utilities are financially healthy, and decisions are made openly and in the public interest.

PUB decisions affect the daily lives of every Manitoban – from the cost of heating and cooling your home, to basic auto insurance rates, to the long-term sustainability of essential water and wastewater services. PUB's work helps to ensure utilities remain reliable, affordable, and accountable.

Who is the PUB?

PUB Members are appointed to bring a mix of skills, perspectives, and experience. Together, they form a Board that is:

- Knowledgeable about regulation, governance, finance and the energy sector.
- Grounded in strong personal qualities like integrity, sound judgment, collaboration, and clear communication.

Members are appointed by Cabinet. PUB Chair, **Robert Gabor, K.C.**, is the only full-time Member; the rest serve part-time. In May 2026, the PUB welcomed three new appointees: **Lloyd Schreyer, Serge Scrafield, and Dr. Hugh Grant** (the university professor, not the actor).

- Lloyd Schreyer is a human resources professional who has worked both inside government and the University of Manitoba, at the most senior levels.
- Serge Scrafield spent 38 years with the Manitoba Government, including as Assistant Deputy Minister of the Departments of Environment as well as Conservation and Water Stewardship. He was Chair of the Clean Environment Commission (CEC) from 2017-2022 and currently sits as a member of the CEC.
- Dr. Hugh Grant is the Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Winnipeg and previously served as a member of the PUB from 2013-23.

That brings the PUB to **one full-time and twelve part-time Members**, which is enough to start a soccer team! More detailed information on the Members can be found on the PUB website.

The Team Behind the Board

The PUB's staff (small in number but mighty in skill and dedication) play a crucial role in supporting the Board's work. Staff are responsible for:

- policy and regulatory analysis
- stakeholder relations and communications
- maintaining public and evidentiary records
- daily case management across all regulatory portfolios
- ensuring long-term continuity and stability of PUB operations
- IT technology maintenance and upgrades
- Jurisdictional information and contacts

In addition to staff, the PUB also engages external advisors. Regulatory matters can be highly technical, and advisors help everyone navigate large volumes of technical information by providing legal, accounting, actuarial, engineering, IT, and utility-sector expertise. And because communicating regulatory processes and decisions to the public in non-technical language can be challenging, the PUB also engages a communications advisor to help support their commitment to transparency and public engagement.

PUB's Guiding Principles

- **Protecting the public interest** by balancing fair, affordable rates for Manitobans with the financial health and long-term sustainability of regulated utilities.
- **Maintaining institutional integrity** as an independent, quasi-judicial tribunal that makes evidence-based decisions free from political or industry influence.
- **Ensuring transparency and accountability** through open public hearings — live-streamed, fully documented, and supported by clear, plain-language reasons for decisions.
- **Encouraging public participation** by welcoming stakeholder input, inviting public presentations, and using modern communication tools, including social media, to connect with Manitobans.

What Makes a Strong PUB?

To serve the public well, Members must understand more than the technical aspects of utility regulation — they must bring a broad mix of skills, perspectives, and experience.

The following criteria, taken together, help build a strong, effective PUB:

1. Regulatory Understanding Experience with regulatory frameworks, public policy, government processes, or administrative law.

2. Governance Competencies Board-level experience, strategic thinking, risk management, and a strong understanding of how to oversee management while delivering on a public mandate.

3. Financial & Performance Management Skills in assessing outcomes, financial analysis, executive performance management, project oversight, and technology or risk management.

4. Technical Knowledge Collective energy literacy — including experience in electricity and gas markets, environmental expertise, and innovation in the energy sector.

5. Personal Attributes Members who demonstrate integrity, sound judgment, collaboration, strong communication skills, and independence.

Energy Integrated Resource Plan Update

The Government of Manitoba directed the PUB to review and provide recommendations for two major Manitoba Hydro (Hydro) projects: Hydro's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) – its long-term plan for meeting electricity needs with a development plan for the next 10 years and a proposed major new generating facility – a 750-megawatt dual-fuel combustion turbine project at the Brandon Generating Station.

The Manitoba government directed a joint review to ensure that decisions about the new facility are considered alongside Hydro's long-term planning assumptions, risks, and future energy needs.

Under provincial legislation and the government's Terms of Reference, the PUB must assess:

- Whether the new facility is needed, and what alternatives exist.
- How the project could affect electricity rates, both short-term and long-term.
- Impacts on Manitoba Hydro's financial health.
- System reliability considerations, including how different generation options support a stable grid.

How it all works

The IRP lays out Manitoba's energy direction for the next 10 years. It's the starting point for future decisions about how our energy system grows and changes. Since these choices affect all Manitobans, the PUB has designed a clear and open process everyone can follow.

The PUB issued several procedural orders that together outline how Hydro's long-term planning and a proposed major new power facility will be reviewed, who can participate, and what Manitobans can expect from the process.
These orders set the rules of engagement, defined the scope of the review, and established the schedule that led up to the public hearings.

When combined, the procedural orders clearly set out:

- The hearing process for reviewing Hydro's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).
- A parallel review of Hydro's proposed 750-MW dual-fuel generating facility at the Brandon Generating Station.
- A joint review structure, ensuring both the IRP and the new facility are assessed together so decisions reflect Manitoba's long-term energy strategy.
- Who may participate, including which groups are granted intervener status and what evidence they may bring forward.
- Timelines and expectations for filings, information requests, expert evidence, and hearing dates.

Order 25/26 — Setting the foundation

Order 25/26 established the initial procedural framework for the IRP review. It outlined:

- The PUB's mandate under *The Manitoba Hydro Act*.
- The overall scope of the IRP review, including reliability, affordability, demand forecasts, and resource options.
- Expectations for Hydro's filings and responses to information requests.
- Early scheduling milestones.

This order essentially "opened" the IRP review and set out the expectations for all parties.

Order 39/26 — Intervener participation and hearing structure

Order 39/26 built on the earlier framework by:

- Confirming the hearing process for the IRP review.
- Granting intervener status to several organizations, including consumer advocates, environmental groups, Indigenous organizations, and industrial power users.
- Outlining what each intervener may focus on and how they may participate.
- Establishing expectations for information requests, evidence, and procedural fairness.

This order ensured a broad range of perspectives would be included in the IRP review.

Order 41/26 — Additional procedural direction

Order 41/26 provided further clarification on process matters, including:

- Deadlines for filings and responses.
- Expectations for Hydro's evidence and modelling.
- Additional guidance on how interveners may submit expert evidence.
- Updates to the hearing schedule.

This order fine-tuned the process to keep the review on track and ensure transparency.

Order 68/26 — Joint review of the IRP and new generating facility

Order 68/26 was the most significant update. It:

- Formally established a joint review of the IRP and the proposed major new generating facility.

- Confirmed that both reviews will be conducted under the PUB's statutory authority and government Terms of Reference.
- Approved (in part) requests from interveners to bring additional expert evidence (including independent rate-impact analysis).
- Set the final hearing schedule, with public hearings beginning on July 27, 2026.
- Clarified that the PUB's review of the new facility will be comprehensive, covering need, alternatives, reliability, costs, and rate impacts.

This order ensured that decisions about a major new investment are considered alongside Manitoba's long-term energy needs.

What happens next

Across these orders, the PUB established a clear, structured process for reviewing Manitoba Hydro's long-term plan and proposed new facility, a full roster of participants who will bring forward evidence and perspectives and a detailed schedule leading to public hearings that will be live streamed on the PUB's website: July 27-31; August 4-6, 11-14, 17-21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31; and September 1 and 4, 2026.

The PUB will ultimately issue recommendations to government on:

- Whether the proposed generating facility should proceed.
- How Hydro's long-term plan aligns with reliability, affordability, and sustainability goals.
- What alternatives or mitigation measures should be considered.

Why this matters for Manitobans

These reviews will shape:

- How Manitoba meets future electricity demand.
- The reliability of the province's power system.
- The affordability of electricity rates over time.
- Major infrastructure decisions that could impact generations.

The PUB's process ensures these decisions are made transparently, with public input and independent analysis.

MPI Update

On June 24, 2026, Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) filed its 2027 General Rate Application (GRA), which asked the PUB to approve a 2.38% rate increase for the Basic Autopac vehicle insurance rates and premiums, effective April 1, 2027 through March 31, 2028. The rate application does not apply to the rates in the non-compulsory (Extension) line of business. Examples of Extension insurance products include lower deductibles, increased third party liability coverage, and rental vehicle insurance. Rate decisions for Extension insurance are made by the MPI Board of Directors, and do not require the approval of the PUB.

The 60 days leading up to an election are governed by Section 92 (Restrictions on Government Advertising) of The Election Financing Act. This provision places restrictions on communications to ensure government resources are not used to support an election campaign. Due to a July 21, 2026, byelection for the provincial constituency of The Pas-Kameesak, the PUB was delayed in publishing a notice in the Winnipeg Free Press informing the public of the application and advising of important steps and deadlines that occur prior to the public hearing. Previous interveners of record in PUB proceedings were advised of the application and interested parties who wanted to seek Intervener status at the hearing were asked to file application with the PUB by June 30.

A pre-hearing conference was held on July 2nd to set out the initial procedural framework for the GRA review. It established the preliminary issues list, expectations for MPI's filings and responses to information requests, and set early scheduling milestones and expectations for all parties.

The public hearing for the 2027 GRA is scheduled from Tuesday, October 13, 2026 - Friday, October 30, 2026, and it will be livestreamed on the PUB's website.

Continuing Education

The PUB employs an innovation and continuous improvement philosophy to enhance its decision-making and its responsiveness to stakeholders.

This fall, members of the PUB will attend the 2026 CAMPUT AGM which brings together regulators from across the country to discuss current issues facing the energy sector and best practices to help navigate a constantly evolving landscape.

This event is for CAMPUT members only and, unlike CAMPUT's annual conference, is not open to industry or the pubic.

More information on the PUB's commitment to its ongoing education will be available in future PUB newsletters.

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