



News Release

December 2, 2008

By Board Order 157/08, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves an application by Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) -- the average premium for vehicles registered in 2008/09 is to decline by 1% for the insurance year 2009/10.

Due to unsettled and depressed investment markets, the Board has also concluded that no premium rebate is to be paid in 2009. Also in its Order, the Board reviews MPI's application, situation and prospects and provides a number of recommendations.

In particular, the Board, noting that times and circumstances have changed since the Board's mandate was first prescribed, recommends that its jurisdiction be extended to include all of MPI's operations. The Board's purview is currently restricted to the Basic insurance program. Without access to information on MPI's full operations, with the majority of MPI's retained earnings and major operational projects now outside its regulatory jurisdiction, it has become impossible for the Board to reach an evidence-based conclusion on the financial prospects of the Corporation.

The Board will next consider an application from MPI in the spring of 2009, when MPI will advance a proposal to replace the current *bonus malus* driver experience-based system with a new Driver Safety Rating program.

A copy of the Order, which contains considerable additional information and commentary, may be reviewed on the Board's website www.pub.gov.mb.ca, or be obtained through the Board's Office.

The Public Utilities Board
400 – 330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0C4
Telephone: (204) 945-2638
Facsimile: (204) 945-2643
Toll Free: 1-866-854-3698
Email: publicutilities@gov.mb.ca