

To Review Maximum Allowable Charges And Fees For Payday Loans and The Government Cheque Cashing Fee Tariff

PURSUANT to subsection 164.1(1) of The Consumer Protection Act (Act) (C.C.S.M. c. C200) (the Act), the minister of finance may, at any time, seek the advice and recommendations of the board with respect to any matter relating to the regulation of payday lenders or payday loans.

In accordance with the request of the minister, the Manitoba Public Utilities Board (Board) will conduct a public hearing to review charges and fees for payday loans and consider the impacts of possibly reducing the maximum allowable rate from \$17 per \$100 borrowed to \$14 per \$100 borrowed. On Dec. 23, 2023, the federal government released draft regulations to cap the maximum cost of borrowing

for payday loans at 14 per cent of the loan value. The Board will also consider the impacts of reducing the proportion of a borrower's net pay, which is used to determine the maximum loan amount, from 30 per cent to 25 per cent.

In addition to the review of payday loans, the Board will review and make recommendations to the minister regarding the maximum fee any person may charge in Manitoba to cash a government-issued cheque. The current maximum fee is \$3 plus two per cent of the face value of the cheque.

These considerations, and other related matters, will be included in the Board's recommendations report to the minister.

HEARING DATES AND LOCATION:

A public hearing will be held on the following days:

Date: Fri., Dec. 6, 2024,
Mon., Dec. 9, 2024, and
Dec. 11, 12 and 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Board's Hearing Room – 4th floor, 330 Portage Ave. Winnipeg

PARTICIPATION AND SCOPE OF HEARING:

Public Participation as an Intervener

The public may participate in this review as Interveners. Interveners provide evidence to the board and are subject to cross-examination. Those seeking Intervener status should file their applications with the board by October 15, 2024. Intervener application forms are available on the board's website.

Interveners must identify their reasons for intervention and be prepared to cooperate with other interveners to avoid duplication of information.

The board may determine whether an intervener is entitled to costs for participating in the hearing and may set the amount of those costs. Criteria defining the award of costs are described in the board's Rules of Practice and Procedures, which are also available on the website.

Public Participation as a Presenter

The public is welcome to provide written submissions to the board. Written submissions should be received by Nov. 1, 2024.

Members of the public may also present their views orally to the board during the hearing. Anyone wishing to present oral submissions to the PUB should contact the board secretary by Oct. 15, 2024

Persons wishing to address the hearing in French are required to notify the board secretary on or before Oct. 15, 2024.

Scope of Review

Interveners may also wish to make written submissions regarding the scope of the review and to address any specific issues, beyond the mandatory review requirements that they seek to have the board consider.

Filing of Information

All material filed by approved Interveners, as well as public presentations, will be provided on the board's website.

Procedure

The board's Rules of Practice and Procedure will apply to the conduct of these hearings. All Interveners must familiarize themselves with the board's requirements. This document is available on the board's website or upon request to the board secretary at 400 – 330 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3C 0C4, or by calling 204-945-2638 or toll free 1-866-854-3698, or via email at publicutilities@gov.mb.ca.

The Manitoba Ombudsman has issued privacy guidelines for administrative tribunals. The board is mindful of its obligations under those guidelines. Its decisions regarding the application being considered will adhere to the guidelines. Personal information will not be disclosed unless it is appropriate and necessary. However, the board advises participants that these proceedings are public and that, as a result, personal information protections are reduced. The proceedings before the board are transcribed and the transcript is posted on the board's website. Names of presenters and their written or oral presentations are included in the publicly available transcripts.



Dr. Darren Christle PhD
Secretary, Public Utilities Board



Wheelchair access available



Five days' notice required