

April 23, 2008

**Notice to all Stakeholders:
Annual Review of Automobile Insurance Premiums for Basic Coverage**

The Automobile Insurance Rate Board (AIRB) is commencing the 2008 annual adjustment process that analyzes the industry-wide experience and determines whether premiums for basic coverage for private passenger vehicles should be adjusted. The Board will consult with interested stakeholders on the annual adjustment and is calling for stakeholders to file a letter of intent to participate in the process by May 5, 2008. This consultation process will conclude with public meetings:

The public meetings will take place at the TELUS Convention Centre, 120 – 9th Avenue SE, in Calgary on June 17 and 18 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Background

The annual review will collect input on whether the premium level for basic automobile insurance coverage¹ needs to be adjusted given the claims experience of the insured public in 2007 and expectations for the year commencing November 1, 2008. The Board's focus for this year's public meetings is on:

- Loss trends
- Expense provision
- Impact of repeal of cap on non-economic damages for minor injuries on third party liability claim costs

The profit provision will increase to 7% of premium for the 2008 industry-wide adjustment.

In order to participate in the public hearings, all stakeholders are invited to send a letter of intent to the Board. The letter of intent should specifically identify all the topics the presentation will cover. The Board will evaluate the letter of intent and presenters will be selected based on adherence to the areas identified above and relevance to the mandate of the Board. The purpose of a submission process is to ensure that presentations are within the scope of the annual review and relate to the industry-wide experience. All interested parties may attend the public hearings, but only those parties selected by the Board will be permitted to present to the Board.

¹ Basic coverage is third party liability and accident benefits coverage.

The Process

There are three ways for interested parties to participate in the annual adjustment

- Submit a Letter of Intent to make a presentation to the Board at the public meetings.
- Send a Written Submission to the Board regarding the annual adjustment.
- Contact the Consumer Representative.

1) File a Letter of Intent to Present at Public Meetings

All interested parties wishing to present to the Board during the public meetings must file a letter of intent by May 5, 2008. Your letter of intent should include:

- A list of the issues that you wish to present to the Board, including a description of how these issues apply to the criteria that must be considered by the Board and to industry experience for the past year.
- Your presentation should contain information that is accurate, based on current circumstances and related to the Alberta insurance market.
- You should indicate your choice of date.

The Board will review all letters of intent and select presenters. Presenters will be notified by May 9, 2008 whether they have been selected to present at the public meetings. Upon notification, a presenter must file their presentation with the Board by May 30, 2008. Any presentations received after this date will not be accepted and that party forfeits their presentation slot.

** The Board's actuary, Oliver Wyman, will release a preliminary report on the industry wide experience by May 30, 2008. Presenters are invited to comment on the report during their presentation.*

2) Written Submissions

As an alternative to making a presentation during the public meetings, stakeholders are invited to make a written submission to the Board on issues related to the annual adjustment. Written submissions must be received by May 30, 2008.

3) Input to the Consumer Representative:

Consumers not wishing to make a presentation or submit a written submission may make comments regarding the annual adjustment to the Consumer Representative. The Board may also direct parties to provide their input to the Consumer Representative, Merle Taylor, who will collect the input of consumers. During the public meetings, the Consumer Representative will present a report to the Board on the input that she has received.

Attendance at Public Meetings:

The annual review will be a public process and all interested parties may attend the public meetings. However:

- Only those parties who have been invited to make a presentation will have an opportunity to speak to the Board.
- Presenters are invited to ask the Board questions at the end of their presentation.
- All presenters and attendees at the public meetings will be responsible for any expenses they incur in order to attend a public meeting process.
- During the public meetings, the Board will reserve the right to go into in-camera sessions if necessary to protect proprietary data.

Important Dates:

1. May 5, 2008 Deadline for Letter of Intent
2. May 30, 2008 Presentations due to the Board
 Deadline for written submissions
3. May 30, 2008 Board Preliminary Actuarial Report released
4. June 17 & 18, 2008 Public Meetings
5. August 1, 2008 Board Decision Released

Public disclosure of all presentation and written submissions:

Subject to section 816 of the *Insurance Act*, any information (including personal or business information) that is submitted to the Board for consideration in the annual adjustment process will be considered made in the context of a public meeting, whether made as a written submission or an oral presentation, and will be made available to the public upon request to the Board.

Letters of intent and submissions should be sent:

Automobile Insurance Rate Board
200 Terrace Building
9515 – 107 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2C3

Phone: (780)427-5428, or
toll free: 310-0000
Fax: (780)644-7771
Email: AIRB@gov.ab.ca

To contact the Consumer Representative:

Ms Merle Taylor
200 Terrace Building
9515 – 107 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2C3

Phone: (780)427-5428, or
toll free: 310-0000
Fax: (780)644-7771
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