

April 20, 2005

Revised

Public meetings set for review of mandatory auto insurance premiums

Edmonton... As required by Alberta's automobile insurance reform process the Automobile Insurance Rate Board will hold formal public meetings this summer to review mandatory premiums.

The meetings are set for June 27th and 28th in Edmonton and June 29th and 30th in Calgary. The rate board's mandate is to annually review premium rates for basic coverage on private passenger vehicles. In setting the maximum premiums, the board will consider the public input gathered, and other industry wide costs and administrative expenses. The review **will not** address:

- optional or commercial coverage;
- complaints against insurance companies or the insurance industry;
- complaints or comments on the \$4,000 cap or the diagnostic and treatment protocols.

All Albertans are encouraged to file a letter of intent to the board by May 12th. The letter should:

- include a list of the issues you wish to present to the board, including a description of how these issues apply to the board's criteria and industry's financial results for the past year;
- relate to the Alberta insurance market; and
- indicate whether you would like to file a written submission or make a presentation to the board and your choice of location.

There are a limited number of spaces available, so the board will review all letters of intent and establish a list of presenters. All presenters will be notified and must file their presentation to the board by June 21st, 2005. The board will also establish a list of parties who will be invited to file a written submission. Written submissions will be tabled as input at the public meetings. Individuals may also be directed to provide their input to the board's consumer representative. During the public meetings, a report will be presented to the board on all the input the representative has received.

The annual review will be a public process and all interested individuals may attend to listen to the presentations.

The Board is expected to reach a decision on premiums by August 1st and if rates are to be adjusted, the new rates would take effect on November 1st.

For more information visit the Board's web site at www.airb.gov.ab.ca or call (780) 427-5428, or toll free at 310-0000.

- 30 -

Revised:

This news release was amended on April 21, 2005.

Media enquiries may be directed to:

Alf Savage

Chair
Auto Insurance Rate Board
(780) 427-5428

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

This information is available on the Auto Insurance Rate Board homepage at: www.airb.gov.ab.ca

Background

April 20, 2005

When and where will the public meetings be held?

- Edmonton - Sutton Place (10235 - 101 Street) - June 27th and 28th from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Calgary - Best Western Port O' Call (1935 McKnight Boulevard) - June 29th and June 30th from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

What about Albertans who don't live in or around the two major centres?

All Albertans interested in presenting are encouraged to file a letter of intent. If they are unable to make it to one of the meetings, they can file a written submission or provide their input directly to the board's consumer representative, Mrs. Merle Taylor. All written submissions will be tabled at the public meetings as input and the consumer representative will provide the board with a report summarizing the input that she receives.

What information should be included in the letter of intent?

Individuals should include a list of issues they want to present to the board, including a brief description of how these issues apply to the board's mandate which is to annually review premium rates for basic coverage on private passenger vehicles and the industry's financial performance over the past year. The issues should also relate to the insurance market in Alberta and a clear indication of whether the submission is to be written or if the individual would like to make a presentation and at which location.

How will the board choose who will make presentations during the hearings?

Each letter will be reviewed and decisions will be based on whether the submissions fall within the board's mandate and criteria.

Is there a deadline for individuals to submit their presentations to the board?

Yes. Individuals chosen to make presentations during the meetings must send their materials to the board by June 21st.

Can the general public attend these meetings?

Yes. The annual review will be a public process and all interested individuals may attend. However:

- only those parties giving a presentation will have an opportunity to speak to the board;
- only the board can ask questions;
- other presenters or members of the public attending the meetings will not be allowed to ask presenters questions; and
- all presenters and those in attendance will be responsible for any expenses they incur in order to attend the meeting.

How do I submit a letter of intent?

All letters of intent must be sent to the Automobile Insurance Rate Board (AIRB) by May 12th.

1) Mail: Automobile Insurance Rate Board 200, Terrace Building 9515 - 107 Street Edmonton, AB T5K 2C3	2) Fax: (780) 644-7771	3) Email: AIRB@gov.ab.ca
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How do I submit my comments to the consumer representative?

1) Mail: Mrs. Merle Taylor c/o Automobile Insurance Rate Board 200, Terrace Building 9515 - 107 Street Edmonton, AB T5K 2C3	2) Phone: (780) 427-5428 or toll free: 310-0000	3) Fax: (780) 644-7771	4) Email: AIRB@gov.ab.ca
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When will board make its final decision on the auto insurance rates?

The Board is expected to reach a decision on premiums in early August and if rates are to be adjusted, the new rates would take effect on November 1st.

- 30 -

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This backgrounder is available on the Auto Insurance Rate Board homepage at: www.airb.gov.ab.ca

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