

# Automobile Insurance Rate Board

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April 13, 2006

## Public meetings set for review of mandatory auto insurance premiums

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

The meetings are set for June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in Edmonton and June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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; or
- insurance company profits. (The issue of insurance company profits will be addressed in a separate set of public meetings scheduled for fall 2006.)

Interested Albertans are encouraged to file a letter of intent to the board by April 21<sup>st</sup>. The letter should:

- include a list of the issues they 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 they would like to file a written submission or make a presentation to the board and the 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 May 31<sup>st</sup>. 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, the representative will present to the board a report on all input received.

The annual review is a public process in which anyone may attend to listen to the presentations.

The board will reach a decision on premiums by August 1<sup>st</sup>. If rates are to be adjusted, the new rates would take effect on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

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Backgrounder attached - Auto insurance mandatory premiums review Q&As

**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.

# Backgrounder

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April 13, 2006

Auto insurance mandatory premiums review - Q&As

When and where will the public meetings be held?

- Edmonton - Sutton Place (10235 - 101 Street) - June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Calgary - Metropolitan Centre (333 - 4th Ave. S.W.) - June 20<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

Albertans interested in presenting are encouraged to file a letter of intent. If they are unable to attend one of the meetings, they can file a written submission or provide input directly to the board's consumer representative, Merle Taylor. All written submissions will be tabled at the public meetings. The consumer representative will also provide the board with a report summarizing all input received.

## **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 rates for basic coverage on private passenger vehicles and the industry's financial performance over the past year. The issues should relate to the insurance market in Alberta, and the letter of intent must state whether the submission will be written or if the individual would like to make a presentation, and if so, 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 May 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **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 April 21<sup>st</sup>.

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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: 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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Or by meeting with the consumer representative at the public input sessions during April and May. Please contact the consumer representative for more details.

**When will the board make its final decision on the auto insurance rates?**

The Board is expected to reach a decision on premiums by August 1<sup>st</sup>. If rates are to be adjusted, the new rates would take effect on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

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This backgrounder is available on the Auto Insurance Rate Board homepage at: [www.airb.gov.ab.ca](http://www.airb.gov.ab.ca)

Send us your comments or questions

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