

BW Provincial Affairs Report

Sept 4, 2013

We continue the struggle to get a standing at this fall's PUB hearing into MPI's plans for 2014. We want to provide significant input into the safety education provided by MPI to Manitoba drivers. We are collaborating with the Consumers' Association of Manitoba to get standing to bring up issues that are important not just to cyclists, but to all vulnerable road users.

Manitoba law stipulates that all Manitobans are insured by MPI if they are involved in an accident with a motor vehicle, even those who aren't in a motor vehicle at the time.

As a result of its monopoly, MPI's costs each year are directly related to safe driving behaviour of all Manitoban drivers. Furthermore, the Province has delegated to MPI responsibility for educating drivers. We want greater accountability at MPI for effective road safety education of all drivers. We want them to be required to focus on the serious consequences of bad driver behaviour.

The MPI lawyer has responded to our efforts by refusing to answer our interrogatories, and arguing we should not be allowed to participate in the hearing as collaborators with the CAC.

Working with James Benson, our pro bono lawyer, and the CAC, we have drafted the attached letter asking the PUB to reject her arguments, and let us work with the CAC to show how MPI could be doing a much better job of managing road safety for all Manitobans. The letter is fairly lengthy, but I have attached it because it provides a good description of the process we are going through.

The hearings start on September 24th. We have to do a lot of work to file material before then.

There has been no action from the Provincial Government on cycling issues. It has been a disappointing summer. We complained to the caucuses in the spring that the Province was not doing anything, and that remains true.

We have been invited by the Provincial Government to consult on the regulations concerning bike lanes, position on the road, and municipal powers, which are required under the amendments to the Highway Traffic Act passed last year. We have been provided with limited background information, but what we have received does not give us any cause for concern. We have invited MCA to join us at those consultations.

Att.; Letter from BW/CAC to the PUB

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