

For immediate release
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Auto insurance premiums need to be taken out of the hands of PC hacks

Alberta Liberals would reform Automobile Insurance Rate Board and freeze premiums

Edmonton – The Alberta Liberals would reform the Automobile Insurance Rate Board to include more consumer representatives, disallow politically connected appointees, and force it to hold more public forums.

These immediate steps will protect Albertans from being gouged on threatened auto-insurance premium increases after the Feb. 8, 2008 decision by the Court of Queen’s Bench striking down the bumbling PC government’s \$4,000 cap on soft-tissue injury awards.

“It’s clear the Automobile Insurance Rate Board is beholden to the PC Party and its supporters in the insurance industry,” said Rick Miller, Alberta Liberal candidate for Edmonton-Rutherford and the party’s shadow minister of finance in the last Legislature.

The AIRB assesses and approves basic-coverage insurance premiums and ratings for passenger vehicles.

“Out of nine board members, there’s only one representing consumers. We believe consumers should have at least three voices on this board,” Mr. Miller said.

He added that the board’s current chairman, Alf Savage, is a former president of the Alberta PC Party. “It’s another example of how the PC elite have been able to infiltrate and erode the public interest,” he said.

Finally, an Alberta Liberal government will force the insurance industry to freeze premiums for a year while it sorts out the PC mess left by its illegal move to cap soft-tissue injury claims.

“The industry has made record profits on the backs of hard-working Albertans since 2004, thanks to the government’s discrimination against a class of injury victims. I think we are being more than reasonable.”

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“Public auto insurance is not the only option,” he said. “The Alberta Liberals will conduct a full review of how auto insurance works and which system best protects consumers. Public auto insurance has some advantages, but Albertans need immediate protection from the threats of the insurance industry to hike premiums.”

The choice is clear: If consumers want to be protected, the Alberta Liberals have the answer.

It's time for a change to get the job done right.

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