

INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE

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QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY-MARCH, 2024

The activities of the Independent Consumer Advocate during this quarter were largely follow ups to previous subjects as well as continuing involvement with annual matters.

One new matter was the issue of recordings (video or audio) of CMEEC meetings. Currently, CMEEC keeps substantial minutes of such meetings but there are no recordings. Since these meetings are hybrid meetings-participation can be in person or electronically-there is no legal requirement for them to be recorded. However, the Advocate did raise the issue and believes that such recordings would add to transparency. The matter was discussed at some length by the Governance Committee and various issues were raised, including FOI implications, risk of misuse of such recordings, and records retention. The issue will be considered again at a subsequent meeting.

While not a new issue, considerable time and attention was given to enterprise risk management policy (ERMP) and the text of the existing policy was substantially revised. While there were few substantive changes, the published policy was revised to reflect current practice and significantly shortened.

There was also considerable discussion of revising the five-year financial plan and revisiting the performance metrics within that plan. These include measures such as desired debt to equity measures, funds available for debt service, target equity and measures of competitiveness. All of these could impact rates charged the members and ultimately rates charged consumers. This discussion is ongoing.

Routine activities included review of annual audit, attendance at committee and board meetings and communication with CMEEC staff.