

**From:** [Office of the Registrar](#)  
**To:** [Jessy Serrao](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Intervention Form: EB-2023-0041 - Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition VECC  
**Date:** Thursday, May 25, 2023 12:42:02 PM

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**From:** Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2023 10:32 AM  
**To:** Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>  
**Cc:** dbrady@piac.ca  
**Subject:** Intervention Form: EB-2023-0041 - Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition VECC

# Intervention Form

## Case Number:

EB-2023-0041

## Intervenor Name:

Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition VECC

## Mandate and Objectives:

The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition VECC is an unincorporated coalition of two major Ontario organizations.

VECC was formed in 1999 with the intent of representing the interests of residential consumers in matters of energy regulation and policy where those consumers, by reason of age, income, tenure or place of residence, language, literacy, or other infirmity may experience greater hardship than other residential consumers as a result of increased rates or policies that place demands on customers. These same consumers may have difficulty, or lack the resources to ensure that their voice is heard by regulators and policy makers deciding upon energy issues.

VECC has intervened in hundreds of OEB hearings since the date of its formation in 1999, and shares in the credit for the efficacy of the intervenor participation process in affecting decisions that have advanced the public interest and resulted in reductions in utility demands and just and reasonable rates.

## Membership of the Intervenor and Constituency

### Represented:

The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition VECC is an unincorporated coalition of two major Ontario organizations, the Ontario Society of Senior Citizens' Organizations and the Federation of Metro Tenants Associations, facilitated by the assistance of a national nonprofit corporation and registered charity, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

## **Programs or Activities Carried Out by the Intervenor:**

PIAC is not a member organization of the VECC coalition, but facilitates the work of VECC, largely by ensuring that representation and research support is available to VECC, and by assuming administrative responsibilities associated with filings and other Board requirements. Because PIAC is not a law firm, it cannot provide legal services. Legal services to VECC are provided by counsel who are not employees/agents for PIAC, but recommended by PIAC for VECC retainer as a result of their regulatory experience with energy issues and regulation.

## **Governance Structure:**

VECC representation is mainly provided by counsel and consultants retained by VECC through the facilitation of PIAC. PIAC is only the facilitator and administrator in the arrangement. As well, in any VECC intervention, counsel instructions are the province of VECC, not PIAC.

VECC engages legal counsel and consultants to assist in its representation before the Board.

## **Representatives:**

Shelley Grice  
[shelley.grice@rogers.com](mailto:shelley.grice@rogers.com)

Bill Harper  
[bharper.consultant@bell.net](mailto:bharper.consultant@bell.net)

## **Other Contacts:**

## **Frequent Intervenor Form:**

## **OEB Proceedings:**

EB-2021-0004EB-2021-0009EB-2021-0011EB-2021-0027EB-2021-0039 EB-2021-0041EB-2021-0052EB-21-0110 EB-2021-0147 EB-2021-0148 EB-2021-0149 EB-2021-0181EB-2021-0212 EB-2021-0243 EB-2022-013 EB-2022-0016 EB-2022-0018 EB-2022-0019 EB-2022-0022 EB-2022-0024 EB-2022-0028 EB-2022-043 EB-022-0044 EB-2022-0049 EB-2022-0053 EB-2022-0056 EB-2022-0067 EB-2022-0072 EB-2022-0096 EB-022-0133 EB-2022-0184 EB-2022-0200 EB-2023-0106 EB-2023-0109

## **Issues:**

NOTL is seeking an increase in distribution rates of ELEVEN.TWO PERCENT. NOTL Hydro's operating costs have increased by TWENTY-SIX PERCENT since 2019. VECC intends to review the key drivers of these increases.

## **Policy Interests:**

N/A

## **Hearings:**

VECC's intention is to make submissions with respect to the form of hearing at a later date and as appropriate to the circumstances and procedural direction of the Board.

## **Evidence:**

VECC does not anticipate filing evidence in this proceeding.

## **Coordination with Other Intervenors:**

VECC endeavors to work cooperatively with all intervenors and where appropriate to coordinate its activities.

## **Cost Awards:**

VECC will be requesting an award of costs for its participation in this proceeding and believes that, as a coalition representing the direct interests of consumers, it meets the eligibility criteria set out in the Ontario Energy Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure Section 39 and its' Practice Direction on Cost Awards Section 3.03)

VECC members do not have access to the direct funding required to retain appropriate legal consulting support for its intervention in the OEB proceedings. Accordingly, VECC relies on PIAC to provide legal support and retain qualified consultants on the basis that PIAC can recover the related fees and disbursements from the Board based on the Board's Practice Direction on Cost Awards at the prevailing Cost Award Tariff.

## **Language Preference:**

VECC intends to participate in English.