

# Annual Filing of Frequent Intervenor

## 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 non-profit corporation and registered charity, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

The Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations (FMTA) is a Toronto non-profit corporation composed of over ninety-two affiliated tenants associations, plus thousands of individual tenants, housing organizations, and members of non-profit housing co-ops. In addition to encouraging the organization of tenants, and the promotion of decent and affordable housing, the Federation provides general information, referrals and assistance to tenants.

The Ontario Society of Senior Citizens' Organizations (OSSCO) is a provincial organization and a registered charity. Founded in 1986, its mission is to improve the quality of life for

Ontario's seniors by encouraging seniors' involvement in all aspects of society, by keeping them informed on current issues, and by focusing on programs to benefit an aging population. OSSCO offers education programs, policy and research, information, referral, counseling, research materials, outreach and support, self-help and volunteer programs. OSSCO's membership includes over 140 organizations and individuals representing 500,000 senior citizens from across Ontario. OSSCO is community-based and not-for-profit and includes organizations representing seniors, ethnocultural, health, native, recreational, retiree, disability and women's organizations. OSSCO members are kept informed of the activities of VECC through the organization website.

## **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:**

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## **Other Contacts:**

