

Surface Rights Board

Board Members

Presiding Member

Donovan Toews, Winnipeg

Deputy Presiding Member

June Greggor, Reston

Members

David King, Winnipeg

Rhonda Russell, Reston

Mandate:

The Surface Rights Act establishes a Quasi-judicial board to administer and enforce the Surface Rights Act. Responsible for resolving land access and development disputes between oil and gas development proponents and surface rights holders. The Board also arbitrates and mediates disputes and establishes appropriate compensation for petroleum activities.

Authority:

The Surface Rights Act

Responsibilities:

The Surface Rights Board is a quasi-judicial board established under *The Surface Rights Act*. The primary function of the board is to arbitrate disputes relating to right of entry or compensation for surface rights used by holders of oil and gas rights. The board also provides mediation services between surface owners, occupants and oil and gas rights holders on a voluntary basis. The board is an independent, impartial body responsible for hearing all sides and, from the evidence, making decisions within the framework of The Act.

Membership:

Not fewer than three members as appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Length of Terms:

Unless a member sooner resigns or is removed from office, each member shall serve for such period as is specified in the order by which the member is appointed and thereafter until the member's successor is appointed.

Desirable Experience:

Knowledge of agricultural and oil patch industries and land administration desirable. Some representation of business or industry related (energy or small business), or Law.

Board members:

- Must have strong analytical abilities and excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- An understanding of administrative tribunal and appeal procedures is an asset.
- Must have the ability to ask questions using open ended, non-judgmental language;
- Have active listening skills;
- Be able to read and interpret policies/legislation;
- Have the ability to make decisions in a fair and unbiased manner; and
- Adhere to a high degree of confidentiality.

Time Commitment:

The board shall meet at the call of the presiding member or at the direction of the minister. The board currently meets between 10-20 days annually, spread over 3-5 day blocks where they stay in the Virден area. Prior to the hearing there is a site inspection by the board. This inspection generally occurs the day before or the morning of the hearing. Because of distance most members generally travel to the community the night before a hearing. The hearing component will take 1-2 days. Deliberation occurs the day after the hearing.

Meetings:

Location: Generally located in Virден or Waskada

Frequency: 3 – 5 meetings annually for 2-3 consecutive days.

Remuneration:

Chair: \$191 per half day; \$336 per full day

Members: \$109 per half day; \$192 per full day

Members are reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses in accordance with the GMA.