

December 20, 2021

Eric Herbelin
President & CEO

Marnie Kacher
Vice-President & Chief Operations Officer

Manitoba Public Insurance
234 Donald Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1M8

Via Email: EHerbelin@mpi.mb.ca; MKacher@mpi.mb.ca

Dear Mr. Herbelin and Ms. Kacher:

As the President of the ATA, I am writing to request on behalf of our members that you reconsider re-instating the Clean and Disinfect Allowance that you are planning to discontinue on December 31, 2021. We recommend that this special allowance remain in place and continue to be paid until community transmission of Covid-19 and Variants of Concern reach low or cautionary levels (yellow).

Back in April 2020 at the height of the first wave of the pandemic, then President Ben Graham publicly announced, *"A special allowance will be paid to the participating shops, as [MPI] continues to ensure our customers' safety is ensured ... Customers need not worry about the condition of their vehicle when it's returned to them. Together, we can all work on flattening the COVID-19 curve."*¹

At the time this statement was released, Manitoba's pandemic response system was at level red or Critical and the temporary allowance was to be reassessed when the state of emergency ended. Presently, the provincial response system is Orange where up until just recently transmission levels were considered manageable. This relative stability is now under threat due to the Omicron variant that is causing COVID-19 cases to rise exponentially placing a strain on the health-care system, and Manitoban's physical and mental health.

Today, our mutual customers also need not worry about the condition of their vehicle when it's returned to them amid the Omicron scare. Given MPI entered this pandemic in a strong financial position and has continued to maintain its record-breaking surplus during the pandemic's three waves, December 31st does not appear to be the right time to discontinue the temporary Clean and Disinfect Allowance.

Together, we can once again work to flatten curves for Covid-19 and its Variants of Concern.

Sincerely,

Norm Bruneau
President, Automotive Trades Association

¹ MPI Will Pay for Vehicle Cleaning Before and After Repairs, Winnipeg News and Entertainment, ChrisD (blog), April 8, 2020, /mpi-vehicle-cleaning-disinfect-covid-19/.