

ROLLING NOTES, CAFII QUEBEC/AMF ISSUES COMMITTEE

Draft CAFII Quebec/AMF Agenda, Wednesday, 1 March, 2023

1. Welcome and start of meeting (Jennifer Russell, All)
2. Jennifer Russell Formally Confirmed as Chair of the Quebec/AMF Committee at 14 February, 2023 EOC Meeting (Keith Martin)
3. Updates on intelligence gained about AMF Including 7 March, 2023 Meeting with Eric Jacob; and 23 March, 2023 Meeting “*Présentation panier de solutions, échanges et questions*” (Keith Martin)
4. Round 2 of AMF consultation on its updated Draft Regulation respecting Complaints Handling and Dispute Resolution in the Financial Services Sector – Submission Sent to AMF (Brendan Wycks, All)
5. Bill-96, Quebec Charter of the French Language—Application to insurance contracts (contracts of adhesion) (Jennifer Russell, All)
6. Recently updated and implemented new AMF Sound Commercial Practices Guideline, including problematic clause regarding reporting any conflicts of interest to customers (Jennifer Russell, All)
 - a. Open Discussion—How do members intend to implement the conflict of interest clause? (All)
7. Recently implemented new Quebec privacy legislation (Bill-64) and related initiatives (Jennifer Russell, All)
8. Removal of spousal cover exemption by January 1, 2025 (all)
9. Other Business

Tracking Issues

AMF initiative around statistics on Debtor Life, Health, and Employment (DLHE) Insurance claims denial rates, and return of premium to customers.

Jennifer Russell opened the meeting and noted that we had a very robust Agenda today. Keith Martin confirmed that the EOC formally confirmed that Jennifer Russell was approved as the new Chair of the Quebec/AMF Committee at its 14 February, 2023 meeting.

Keith Martin provided an update on the resolution of the issue of the RADM and credit card-embedded insurance benefits, noting that a meeting would be held on 7 March, 2023 to confirm the understanding of the AMF and CAFII that the Fact Sheet and Notice of Rescission would not need to be distributed for these products, and that the AMF would have an “unwritten understanding” on this issue with CAFII. Keith Martin would be in attendance of that meeting along with Mario Beaudoin from the AMF, as “witnesses.” As well, Keith Martin noted that a French-only session would be held on 23 March, 2023 on burden reduction initiatives by the AMF. Keith Martin will attend that meeting and provide an English summary; and it was noted that the AMF was increasingly holding meetings only in French, and distributing written documents in French only, or with the English translation only provided many weeks after the distribution of the French.

Brendan Wycks noted that CAFII had submitted its formal submission to the updated AMF draft regulation respecting complaints handling and dispute resolution. The Quebec/AMF Committee was consulted on that submission.

The Committee turned next to Bill-96 on the Charter of the French Language. Michelle Costello from CUMIS asked whether the group policy was also considered a “contract of adhesion.” The group policy is provided by the insurer to the distributor, but the customer may request to see that policy. At Assurant, the group master policy is not viewed to fall within the definition of a “contract of adhesion.” If requested by a policy holder, it would be provided in the language of choice of the consumer. Pete Thorn said TD was in agreement with this interpretation. Isabelle Choquette said that Desjardins was still determining its position, but was leaning towards considering the group policy to fall within the contract of adhesion, so that if a consumer requests to see it the French would be shared first. Kristal McKay from CIBC also felt that CIBC would likely view the group policy to fall within the contract of adhesion.

A question was asked about whether underwriting which might require communication with the customer might be considered to fall within Section 55. The whole issue is whether these documents relate to the contract. Catherine Latulippe from CTFS said that fulfilment packages would be sent by her institution in the language preference of the customer, because it would fall under the consent from customers around language preference, which would already have been received. There is uncertainty around how phone channel enrollment will occur.

It was agreed that “Recently updated and implemented new AMF Sound Commercial Practices Guideline, including problematic clause regarding reporting any conflicts of interest to customers” would be moved to a tracking issue.

Isabelle Choquette said that Desjardins were facing major issues around cancelling the remaining spousal insurance policies by 2025, and had concerns about how to do this. Kristal McKay said CIBC was on track to cancel these spousal insurance policies. There was discussion about whether a spouse who has been enrolled by the primary card holder and who is paying additional premium would need to be removed from spousal coverage, and Desjardins felt that yes that was the view of the AMF.

In Attendance

Jennifer Russell, Assurant * Chair
 Belinda Lynch, Scotia Insurance
 Bessie Paliouras, Manulife
 Cassandra Litniansky, CUMIS
 Catherine Latulippe, Canadian Tire Financial Services
 David Self, CIBC Insurance
 Doug Weir, CIBC
 Greg Caers, BMO Insurance
 Jonathan Poulin, BNC Insurance
 Kristal McKay, CIBC Insurance
 Lindsey LeClair, Valeyo
 Marc-Andre Chartrand, Canada Life
 Michelle Costello, CUMIS

Nadine Roy, Assurant
Peter Thorn, TD Insurance
Silvana Capobianco, BMO Insurance

From staff:
Keith Martin, CAFII Co-Executive Director
Brendan Wycks, CAFII Co-Executive Director

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 29 March, 2023, 1-2pm

9 February, 2023 Quebec/AMF Committee Special Purpose Meeting on Bill-96

A special purpose meeting of the Quebec/AMF Committee was held on 9 February, 2023 to discuss how CAFII member companies would be responding to Bill-96, the Charter of the French Language with an implementation deadline of 1 June, 2023.

However, before that part of the meeting started Committee Chair Jennifer Russell (Assurant) called on Keith Martin to update the Committee on a development with the AMF. Keith Martin mentioned that he sent a note to CAFII members on 8 February, 2023 about a resolution to the RADM and credit card-embedded insurance benefits issue with the AMF, where the AMF's Superintendent of Client Services and Distribution Oversight said that there would be an "unwritten agreement" that the AMF would take no action with respect to regulated entities who have chosen not to distribute the Fact Sheet and Notice of Rescission.

David Self (CIBC Insurance) asked if there would be any issues due to CIBC Insurance distributing the Fact Sheet and Notice of Rescission to credit card-embedded insurance benefits, and Keith Martin said that the AMF was already well-aware of this and their decision was more around "we will not do anything if a company does not distribute these documents for embedded insurance" as opposed to a company not being able to distribute those documents if they wished to.

Peter Thorn (TD Insurance) said that he supported the outcome, but that there was a risk of a customer or a consumer organization complaining that the Regulation was not being complied with. Keith Martin agreed that there was some risk of that, but that it was still the best solution available in the circumstances, and it would be difficult for the AMF to reverse position at a later point in time on a matter which they were fully aware of and which had been in place for years.

The meeting then turned to Bill-96, with Jennifer Russell providing an overview of her understanding of the Bill and how Assurant was thinking of implementing it. In reviewing the bill, especially with respect to "Contracts of adhesion" which are final contracts that are non-negotiable, the conclusion reached at her company is that for credit protection insurance (CPI), customer certificates meet the definition of a contract of adhesion. However, it is less clear that embedded benefits within a credit card meet the definition of a contract of adhesion.

There are exceptions in the Bill to the application of the Charter to contracts of adhesion, but there is nothing in the Charter that says that group creditor certificates are exempted. The contract in this case is the certificate for the policy-holder. If that interpretation is correct, then for certificates for CPI French documents must be presented first even if the consumer is English. The consumer may then choose to continue in French or request the English version and continue to discuss the contract in English, but they must first see the contract in French.

Farhad Eslah (Canadian Tire Financial Services) said CTFS would offer the certificates as two links, one in French, and one in English. The same would be done for the Fact Sheet etc. The individual at the end of the credit card application would have an extra sentence in French and English asking them to confirm that if they are a resident of Quebec they have received all documentation in French first, and that they chose to proceed in English for all subsequent communications and reception of documentation. In-store customers would only receive documentation in French, to avoid the risk of staff accidentally providing documentation in English first. In general for credit card applications there will be more physical handouts at the branch, because this lowers the amount of information that needs to be distributed with the material sent in the mail afterwards to the customer.

Elyse Lemay (Canada Life) asked about the Charter's exemptions for loans. If the insurance offer is separate from the loan it would have to be subject to the Charter, but if they are done together it is not clear if the exemption would apply to the loan and the insurance as well. The loan would come first and so how Section 55 applies to the insurance associated with the loan is not completely clear.

Elyse Lemay also said that the interpretation Jennifer Russell is advancing is based on treating the certificate as though it was an individual contract, which is not necessarily everyone's interpretation. Peter Thorn (TD Insurance) asked if there was any legal basis for the interpretation that the certificate is in fact a contract? Peter Thorn said that the incidental insurance to the loan should not be separated from the decision to apply for the loan, which is the primary contract. Catherine Latulippe (Canadian Tire Financial Services) said that there has been work been done at the CBA level on this issue. Section 55 exempts some loan contracts, but subsequent Section 26 amendments to the Consumer Protection Act may remove those exemptions in practice, so the Section 55 exemptions may not matter in practice.

Iman Muntazir (RBC Insurance) said that at RBC they will act as if the insurance needs to be subject to Bill-96. The process for digital and online applications are still up in the air, but one approach may be to send the application and certificate in French first, and then customer can choose or request after the fact to receive an English version. The Product Summary and Fact Sheet are not viewed as part of the contract of adhesion. So the links will be provided in French first, but only for the application and the certificate. That likely includes the approach for documents that are mailed out. RBC Insurance has chosen to not send out the English version of the documents as well to avoid sending out too much paper. There is still discussion internally on the approach to take, however, as there may be an easier way to let the customer get a copy of the document in English.

Jennifer Russell noted that in addition to the customer experience being negatively affected by some of these processes, there is also the issue of communicating with the customer in a reasonable timeline. She noted that the implications of not complying with the rules are significant, as if the contract of adhesion is not offered in French the contract is voided.

Maude-Marie Dorval (Desjardins) said that underwriting is viewed as part of the contract as well, for example if a customer is told that their application is rejected as part of an underwriting process, that this needs to be communicated in French first. A question was asked if some members are thinking of not providing an English version of the contract at all? Some members said that they will provide general information bilingually, but the fulfillment element may be in French only.

Kristal McKay (CIBC Insurance) asked if there is consideration of fulfilment being bilingual for some members, and Sergio Gomes (BMO Insurance) said BMO was planning on sending fulfilment packages in both languages, with French being first for everyone. Keith Martin noted that this has the ironic outcome of sending English versions of documents to French speakers, which is not the intention of the Charter which seeks to promote French in Quebec.

David Self (CIBC Insurance) said that there was still uncertainty around the how to interpret Bill-96 for embedded coverages.

Michelle Costello (CUMIS) asked about whether the French contract needed to be signed, and the general view was that it was the presentation of the contract that needed to be in French first, and it was fine if the customer chose to sign the English version of the document thereafter. Maude-Marie Dorval (Desjardins) and Cecillia Xiao (Assurant) agreed with that interpretation.

Farhad Eslah (CTFS) said that for the phone channel, CTFS will send the certificate over email during the phone call, and so they will only make an offer to a customer when they have an email. It was noted that the RADM indicates that the Fact Sheet and Notice of Rescission do not need to be provided to the customer during a phone call if there is no way to provide the customer with those documents during the call; if the certificate is being sent during the call to the customer, does that mean the customer should also be sent the Fact Sheet and Notice of Rescission?

Mandy Rutten (CIBC Insurance) said that her view was that embedded insurance is included as part of the credit card so the insurance does not require a separate process, and Keith Martin noted that while that is logical, it is not the interpretation that the AMF has used. Having said that, it is also important to keep in mind that Bill-96 is not an AMF regulation.

Lea Dufresne (Desjardins) asked about the process for travel insurance, and members generally felt that the process should be the same as for credit protection insurance. Silvana Capobianco (BMO Insurance) asked if the Fact Sheet and Notice of Rescission are in scope for Bill-96, and the general consensus was that these documents were not captured by the bill.

There was some discussion of asking for an extension of the 1 June, 2023 deadline, and Catherine Latulippe (CTFS) said that even if there was an extension, there is a private right of action that will be available as of 1 June, 2023. It was noted that monitoring and enforcement of the Charter of the French Language was the jurisdiction of the *Office québécois de la langue française*.

Additional Information

Please find links to two legal opinions on Bill-96:

[Charter of the French language](#) | [Knowledge](#) | [Fasken](#)

[Stikeman Elliott on Bill-96](#)

In Attendance

Jennifer Russell, Assurant * Chair
Iman Muntazir, RBC Insurance ** Vice Chair
Belinda Lynch, Scotia Insurance
Cassandra Litniansky, CUMIS
Catherine Latulippe, Canadian Tire Financial Services
Cecilia Xiao, Assurant
David Self, CIBC Insurance
Deliska Beauregard, Canadian Premier Life
Elliot Yoo, Scotia Insurance
Elyse Lemay, Canada Life
Farhad Eslah, Canada Tire Financial Services
Greg Caers, BMO Insurance
Jason Beauchamp, Canada Life
Jonathan Poulin, BNC Insurance
Kristal McKay, CIBC Insurance
Léa Dufresne, Desjardins
Mandy Rutten, CIBC Insurance
Marc-Andre Chartrand, Canada Life
Maude-Marie Dorval, Desjardins
Michelle Costello, CUMIS
Nadine Roy, Assurant
Peter Thorn, TD Insurance
Sergio Gomez, BMO Insurance
Silvana Capobianco, BMO Insurance
Susan Gibaut, Assurant
Tejal Harri-Morar, BMO Insurance

STAFF:

Keith Martin, CAFII
Brendan Wycks, CAFII

1 February, 2023 Quebec/AMF Agenda Meeting

Draft CAFII Quebec/AMF Agenda, Wednesday, 1 February, 2023

1. Jennifer Russell as Chair of the Quebec/AMF Committee (Keith Martin)
2. Welcome and Introductions (Jennifer Russell, All)
3. Terms of Reference for this Committee (Jennifer Russell, All)
4. Nominating Iman Muntazir, RBC Insurance as Vice-Chair of this Committee— (Jennifer Russell)
5. Updates on intelligence gained about AMF (Keith Martin)

6. AMF initiative around statistics on Debtor Life, Health, and Employment (DLHE) Insurance claims denial rates, and return of premium to customers (Jennifer Russell, All)
7. Round 2 of AMF consultation on its updated Draft Regulation respecting Complaints Handling and Dispute Resolution in the Financial Services Sector (Jennifer Russell, All)
8. Recently updated and implemented new AMF Sound Commercial Practices Guideline, including problematic clause regarding reporting any conflicts of interest to customers (Jennifer Russell, All)
 - a. Open Discussion—How do members intend to implement the conflict of interest clause? (All)
9. Bill-96, Quebec Charter of the French Language—Application to insurance contracts (contracts of adhesion) (Jennifer Russell, All)
10. Recently implemented new Quebec privacy legislation (Bill-64) and related initiatives (Jennifer Russell, All)
11. Removal of spousal cover exemption by January 1, 2025 (all)
12. Frequency of Meetings (all)
13. Other Business

Notes 1 February 2023

Agenda #1: The Committee unanimously supported Jennifer Russell as the new Chair with a motion from David Self, seconded by Peter Thorn.

Agenda #2: Welcome to all by Committee Chair Jennifer Russell.

Agenda #3: Terms of Reference were approved by the at the 17 January, 2023 EOC Meeting. Jennifer Russell will join the EOC as the Chair of the Committee. It was suggested that the creation of this Committee should be shared with the AMF.

Agenda #4: Iman Muntazir as Vice Chair of the Quebec/AMF Committee was approved by the Committee. Moved by David Self, seconded by Deliska Beauregard.

Agenda #5: Keith Martin noted that Louis Morriset, CEO of the AMF would not be renewing his contract and would be leaving in the summer of 2023. Internal candidates to succeed him include Patrick Déry. Keith Martin spoke to Lynne Duhaime of the Quebec CLHIA on 19 January, 2023 at a FSRA Conference, and she said that meetings in recent years with the AMF had been very difficult and awkward. It was noted that on Monday, 6 February 2023 CAFII Chair Peter Thompson would be meeting virtually with AMF's Eric Jacob, in their first quarterly virtual meeting.

Agenda #6: The AMF exercise around insurance denial rates and return of premium to customers was discussed. This was first brought to CAFII's attending in September, 2022 and is based on annual reporting done by industry for the AMF around insurance benefits. This time around, embedded benefits were not included in the exercise. The AMF has sent companies that are not meeting the averages for the industry letters requiring additional information. The letters were sent in November, 2022 and 1 February, 2023 is the deadline for responding. It is not clear if the AMF will have any follow up on this. The focus of the AMF has been on claims denial rates more than loss ratios. TD Insurance's letter only spoke about claims denial rates. CUMIS also did not have any loss ratio questions. It was

suggested that for the Peter Thompson/Eric Jacob virtual meeting on 1 February, 2023 the question of whether this exercise would occur again could be asked, as well as how the data would be used.

Agenda #7: The AMF consultation on complaints handling and dispute resolution was discussed. It was noted that the AMF draft is still prescriptive, is not harmonized with other jurisdictions and the CCIR, and is aligned more with the FCAC definition of complaints. This could also be a question Peter Thompson raises with Eric Jacob, around the strategic direction that the AMF is taking on these files. The letter CAFII has drafted for the AMF will be circulated to the EOC and the Quebec/AMF Committee for comment. Feedback was originally due by February 6th, but industry received an extension offer from the AMF for another two weeks. Plan is to have letter circulated and approved by the EOC and the Quebec/AMF Committee very shortly, and well prior to the deadline.

Agenda #8: AMF Sound Commercial Practices Guideline includes a problematic conflict of interest clause where all potential conflicts need to be captured and all changes need to be shared with customers. Members were encouraged to review the appropriate documents and this can be discussed in future meetings.

Agenda #9: Bill 96 is an open issue in terms of how to interpret the new rules. Section 55 is a concern for group insurance. This might be something that CAFII needs to explore. How are member companies planning to apply this provision? This was something that members of the Committee felt should be added to the Agenda for future meetings. Perhaps there could be a dedicated group that discusses this, or a separate meeting on this issue. CIBC Insurance is taking an approach where documents will be bilingual. CTB said that in a bilingual document the French has to be viewed first.

ACTION: A separate meeting will be organized on this issue alone.

Agenda #10: It was agreed that the issue of Quebec privacy legislation with certain elements requiring implementation by September 2023 would be tabled at future meetings. There was an interest in having a separate meeting on Bill 64 at some point, but it will be on the Agenda for the next meeting as well.

Agenda #11: Postponed due to time issues.

Agenda #12: Agreed to hold monthly meetings every 4 weeks on Wednesdays from 1-2pm.

In Attendance

Jennifer Russell, Assurant * Chair
Iman Muntazir, RBC Insurance ** Vice Chair
Deliska Beauregard, Canadian Premier Life
Silvana Capobianco, BMO Insurance
Cecilia Xiao, Assurant
Elyse Lemay, Canada Life
Farhad Eslah, Canada Tire Financial Services
Jonathan Poulin, BNC Insurance
Léa Dufresne, Desjardins
Belinda Lynch, Scotia Insurance
Marc-Andre Chartrand, Canada Life
Maude-Marie Dorval, Desjardins
Michelle Costello, CUMIS
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STAFF:

Keith Martin, CAFII
Brendan Wycks, CAFII