

THOMPSON'S
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Lawyers return fire at IBC

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The Ontario Trial Lawyers Association isn't buying the Insurance Bureau of Canada's claim to be "the real consumer advocate."

The OTLA was responding to comments made by IBC president and ceo Don Forgeron in November (Thompson's daily email service, Nov. 11).

At an IBC regulatory affairs symposium Mr. Forgeron said politicians and insurers have fundamentally opposing views on the future.

"There is one universal law affecting us: politicians are appealing to a short-term audience. We are not. So we must lead. Insurers are no longer just business people, we are the real consumer advocates."

In a post on the association's website OTLA's John Karapita called that an "amazing and audacious" claim.

"Is this the same IBC that advocates so shamelessly for restrictions to the definition of catastrophic impairment, changes that will affect the most vulnerable of these consumers they pretend to represent?" he writes.

"The same IBC that justifies the continued practice of subjecting claimants to intrusive and suspect medical examinations? The same IBC that stresses the incidence of fraud in the system, to the point where the casual observer might doubt the veracity of any claimant and their entitlement to benefits?"

He said the bureau represents insurers and their shareholders whose "interests lie in maximizing the return on equity."

"Most reasonable people might conclude that the core mandate of the insurance industry is not just incompatible with the consumer interest but diametrically opposed to the interests of consumers."



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Is there a solution to the auto dilemma?

THE WORLD of auto insurance in Canada was a relatively calm one when Thompson's World Insurance News first appeared on the scene in October, 1988.

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We want to hear from you. What are your solutions to the challenges to auto insurance? Contact us at thompsons25th@gmail.com with your plans to rid auto of today's problems.

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