

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Violent storms on June 10, 2008: Damages estimated at \$56 million

Montréal, July 2, 2008 – According to a survey by the Insurance Bureau of Canada, insurers expect to pay out more than \$56 million to customers for repairs to their homes and cars damaged during the violent storms that swept through several regions of Québec on June 10.

Nearly 16,000 claims

Despite the short duration of the storm, the intensity of the winds as well as the localized hail showers caused extensive property damage. Insurers report that more than 6,000 claims for damages to residences and personal property have been submitted to date, and nearly 10,000 automobile insurance claims have been filed.

Insurers and repair workers in high demand

In spite of the abnormally high volume of claims, insurers are working hard to process their customers' claims as quickly as possible, prioritizing files that require immediate action. This extra workload for both insurers and repair workers could result in additional delays. Policyholders are being asked for their understanding and cooperation.

A fairly severe winter

These storms follow a rather severe winter that resulted in damages totalling over \$172 million to homes only. In comparison, the winter of 2006–2007 was much milder, with property damage amounting to three times less, a total of just \$58 million.

Home Insurance Damages resulting from heavy snowfall*

Types of damage	Number of claims	Estimated amount of damage
Pools, spas and saunas	14,000	\$36,000,000
Damage from the weight of snow/ice	7,000	\$31,000,000
Water damage (sewer back-ups/overflows and water leakage)	17,000	\$105,000,000
Total	38,000	\$172,000,000

*This table only includes damages related to heavy snowfall.

Avoid unpleasant surprises

The Insurance Bureau of Canada would like to remind you that, contrary to popular belief, it is possible to protect yourself against many of Mother Nature's whims.

- 1) **Hail and windstorms:** damages caused by hail and strong winds are covered in all home insurance policies.
- 2) **Outdoor pools, spas and saunas:** it is possible to cover these kinds of property and their accessories, but you must add a rider to your home insurance policy.
- 3) **Water leakage and sewer back-ups and overflows:** these damages can also be covered by a rider attached to your home insurance policy.
- 4) **Roof collapses due to the weight of the snow or ice:** these damages are covered in what is called the comprehensive policy. Offered at an additional price, the comprehensive policy can prove to be a worthwhile solution because it provides greater protection than a basic contract.
- 5) **Car insurance: in Québec,** only third-party liability insurance is mandatory. Insuring your vehicle against any damages it may sustain is optional. It is possible to ensure your vehicle against collision, fire, theft and damages caused by wind and hail.

Be well-informed to be well-insured

Several options are available to you when the time comes to insure your home and car. To find out more and determine the protection you need, contact your insurance professional or the Insurance Information Centre by dialling 514-288-4321 or 1-877-288-4321 or by visiting the Web site at www.infoinsurance.ca.

About the Insurance Bureau of Canada

The Insurance Bureau of Canada is a national association that brings together the majority of general insurance companies in Canada. It offers various services to consumers in order to inform and assist them when purchasing car or home insurance or making a claim.

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