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Many barbers plan to increase prices

A number of barbers in Winnipeg have indicated they will increase the price of their haircuts and styles as recommended by the Manitoba Master Barbers Association endorse such a move.

The association recommended Thursday basic maximums of \$6 for a haircut and \$12 for a style due to rising costs of rent, utilities and supplies.

Barbers contacted Friday currently charge between \$3.50 and \$5 for cuts and between \$7 and \$10 for styles, depending on the length of a man's hair.

A few establishments still stand firm at a bargain rate of \$2.75.

The owner of one central Winnipeg shop that charges \$2.75 for short hair cuts and \$3 for long hair cuts feels that the recommended increase is ridiculous.

"We don't need to charge more for haircuts. What we need is for men to get their hair cut more often," he said.

Another shop owner said he sympathized with the public, but agreed that longer hair styles have forced barbers to charge more.

"There were double the number of barbers and barber shops in Winnipeg a few years ago. But with long hair styles the number of shops has diminished. We must raise our prices in order to survive," he said.

"I had patrons that used to come 10 to

15 times a year. Now they come three or four times a year," he added.

But the main reason why many barbers are supporting price increases is to offset inflation.

"Everything else has gone up in price regardless of whether our operating costs have gone up. We need more money to live," said one shop owner.

Another barber felt the recommended prices for cuts and styles are still low compared with how everything else has increased.

"We must also consider giving our employees raises," said another shop owner who favored charging more for hair cuts.

The manager of one shop said the price increases were warranted because of the extra time it takes to cut or style longer hair. "It takes about 20 minutes for a longer hair cut and about 40 minutes for a longer style," he said.

A few barbers said a price increase wasn't necessary. They would rather see the association push for six-day work weeks and longer working hours that would attract workers after they leave their jobs.

Another barber who is not in favor of hefty increases said he has considered raising his prices but only by about 25c.

He feared that \$6 haircuts might put even more barbers out of business.

There are about 270 barbers in Winnipeg. About 150 barbers are members of the Manitoba Master Barbers Association.

No word

Kasser, he said at his weekly news conference.

Mr. Kasser faces charges of fraud in connection with the construction of the