

Co-operatives and Mutuals - *they form a national network of unlimited potential!*

In celebration of Co-op Week, October 13-19, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada coined the phrase, "a national network of unlimited potential!" to accompany the 2019 theme, InterCo-Operation. Unlimited potential stems from the versatility and adaptability of the co-op model; from early beginnings to the success stories of today. A recent study by Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada shows that the co-operative sector is thriving in many ways.

There are over 8000 small, mid-size and large co-operative and mutual enterprises in Canada.

Co-op memberships totaled 31.8 million; with many Canadians belonging to multiple co-ops.

Co-operative full-time equivalent employees number over 180,000 Canadians.

Did you know?

Co-ops paid taxes paid to all levels of government totaling \$13 billion in 2015, a significant injection into public funds and a benefit to all Canadians.

In 2015, co-ops contributed \$61.2 billion to the Canadian economy; a figure that represents 3.4% of Canada's GDP.

Co-operatives tend to buy more of their inputs from local sources, creating a greater economic ripple effect than conventional businesses.

Hay Bales and Powerlines - *A Dangerous Combination*



West Wetaskiwin REA would like to remind farmers to be careful when working with hay bales in your fields and other farm locations where powerlines are located.

First, do not store or pile hay bales under/near power lines as they reduce clearance and could catch fire if a spark comes off the line.

Remember, you are at risk of being electrocuted through contact with powerlines while loading and unloading hay bales. You do not need to come into

direct contact with powerlines to receive an electric shock as electricity can jump, or arc, across air gaps.

Be careful when throwing ropes and lashing to secure tarping or bales that they do not come in contact with a power line.

And most important, always look up and around if operating equipment with front end load attachments or other machinery that can be raised and possibly connect with a power line.

For power troubles or service requests, contact: FortisAlberta (the distribution system operator for West Wetaskiwin REA): Toll-free: 1-855-333-9473 or 780-310-9473

For REA inquiries contact:
West Wetaskiwin REA
R.R. #1 Station Main,
Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 1W8
Phone: 780-335-9378 (WEST)
E-mail: westwet@telus.net
www.westwetaskiwinrea.com

For billing or account inquiries contact:
Battle River Power Coop
Box 1420
Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X3
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972
E-mail: brpc@brpower.coop
www.brpower.coop



INTERCO-OPERATION

OCTOBER 13 - 19 2019 CO-OP WEEK

In celebration of Co-op Week, October 13-19, Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada chose a 2019 theme, **INTERCO-OPERATION**.

Co-operatives are sustainable businesses that put social responsibility, community development and sustainable development goals at the heart of their day-to-day concerns, in order to improve the quality of life of their members and all Canadians. Co-operatives, big and small, operate under 7 long-standing, guiding principles. The InterCo-Operation theme is another way of stating the sixth co-operative principle; co-operation among co-operatives.

West Wetaskiwin Rea is proud to be a successful co-operative Rural Electrification Association (REA) that works in InterCo-operation with other REAs. We entered into a Co-operative Billing and Communication Agreement with Battle River Power Coop. The REA chose to have Battle River Power Coop provide our Regulated Rate Option (RRO) to members, manage billing for the RRO and create, publish and mail a monthly newsletter to all. More recently, we collaborated with other REAs and the Alberta Federation of REAs on the issue of urban/rural annexation.

Our members are invited to attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM) that occurs in our service area where they can provide input and vote for Directors to govern and guide their REA.

The AGM, the website (www.westwetaskiwinrea.com) and the newsletter ensure members are informed and recently, in support of the education principle, we introduced a post-secondary Scholarship Program to support post-secondary education for members' children.

We work within our community and Directors and members volunteer for many local organizations. Additionally, we introduced a **Re-Home a Tree** program to support environmental sustainability and to save a precious resource.

Member economic participation is also important and the Board of Directors governs the REA to provide cost-effective distribution rates supported by good service. The chart following demonstrates how members consistently save money over using a for-profit utility company.

Distribution Tariff Comparison

Breaker Size	FortisAlberta*	West Wetaskiwin REA	WW REA Variable Savings
Idle	\$76.17	\$32.05	138%
3 KVA	\$76.17	\$42.95	77%
5 KVA	\$76.17	\$53.94	41%
7.5 KVA	\$107.87	\$67.68	59%
10 KVA	\$139.57	\$81.41	71%
15 KVA	\$202.98	\$108.88	86%
25 KVA	\$329.79	\$163.81	101%

*Comparison as at September 2019. Based on 30-day billing. REA rates compared to FA Rate 21 (effective Jan. 1, 2019)

Regulated Rate Option



The Regulated Rate Option (RRO) may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. It is not a 'regulated' rate, rather is a default rate. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the RRO. For September 2019, RRO is priced at \$0.06800 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For October 2019, the Battle River Power Coop monthly rate as calculated under the RRO regulation is \$0.06318; the billing rate charged to WW REA members is \$0.06318.

Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit ucahelps.alberta.ca or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

Information on West Wetaskiwin's Code of Conduct Regulation Compliance Plan can be found on our website: www.westwetaskiwinrea.com