

Co-op Week 2018 will take place from October 14-20 and this year's theme is *'Solving Challenges Together'*

While Co-op Week has been celebrated by various entities in Canada since 1958, the event went national in 1982. In Canada, cooperatives are represented nationally by Cooperatives and Mutuals Canada and within Alberta, the Alberta Community and Cooperative Association (ACCA) is the representative body.

So, what is a cooperative?

A co-operative is an organization owned by the members who use its services. Co-operatives exist in every sector of the economy, can touch every aspect of our lives and provide consumers with a distinct values-based and community-owned and controlled alternative.

Unlike the private, public, or voluntary sectors, all co-operatives around the world are guided by the same seven principles:

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic member control
3. Member economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training, and information
6. Co-operation among co-operatives
7. Concern for Community



Canada Coop Facts

There are over 9,000 Co-operatives and Credit Unions and Mutuals in Canada.

Cooperatives in Canada reports that co-ops are strongly supported by Canadians with 83% of them indicating they would rather buy their products at a co-operative than a private business.

Canadian co-operatives have over 18 million members and employ more than 150,000 people.

Rural Electric Cooperatives (REC) in the United States

In the U.S., RECs provide rural power distribution service to residents, farms and businesses in their respective areas. With these designated service areas, RECs flourish in the U.S. and currently own 42 percent of America's distribution lines in 47 states and serve 40 million people. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association reports they account for \$97B in assets and employ 67,000 people nationwide, contributing indirect and induced positive community economic impacts in excess \$45B.

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

ARREARS POLICY CHANGE For Members on the RRO*

Effective October 1, 2018, the arrears policy for members receiving the Regulated Rate Option (RRO) is being modified. This modification is comparable with industry standards and is as follows:

- West Wetaskiwin REA members, on the RRO, will continue to receive three monthly invoices and, as applicable, two arrears notification statements: a [31-60 day] and [61–90 day and over].
- Previously at the [61-90 day and over] arrears stage, a courtesy phone call was made to the member to arrange a payment and/or a doorknocker was hand delivered to the member site. This portion of the process has been eliminated.
- Replacing this process is the addition of a prominent **FINAL NOTICE** stamp on the [61-90 day and over] statement. A further notification, the word '**URGENT**', will be printed clearly on the outside of the envelope to ensure the member is aware of the importance of the documents within.
- If no payment is received by the due date printed on the [61-90 day and over] statement, non-payment will trigger a caveat being applied against the land title (and may include a service disconnect) until the account returns to good standing.

While we recognize economic times may negatively impact individuals, we believe that compensation for services rendered to our members by third parties, and on behalf of the West Wetaskiwin REA, merit timely payment.



**Please note that each electricity retailer/RRO provider may have different arrears policies and we encourage members to be aware of them.*



Re-Home A Tree Program

Remember fall is the perfect time to take a tree home from a country road and nurture it in your own yard.

Visit www.westwetaskiwinrea.com for information on how to get your 'free' County permit and tips and advice for successfully removing and re-planting trees.

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, 2018 RRO is priced at \$0.06800 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For October 2018, the Battle River Power Coop monthly rate as calculated under the RRO regulation is \$0.05966; the billing rate charged to WWREA members is \$0.05966.

It is very important to note that your electrical distribution system provider will always be the West Wetaskiwin REA, regardless of who supplies your electricity. Members will not be disadvantaged in any way based on their retailer choice.

For a list of energy retailers, contact the Utilities Consumer Advocate: 310-4-UCA (310-4822) or www.ucahelps.alberta.ca. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the default Regulated Rate Option (RRO). The RRO rate is listed on www.westwetaskiwinrea.com

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