

## **EQUS Scholarship Program – Deadline August 1**

EQUS is offering two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school students entering their first year of college or university.

The EQUS Scholarship Program recognizes the academic accomplishments of the children of member-owners and assists the students with their post-secondary education pursuits. Each year, two \$1,000 scholarships are awarded, one to the top male and one to the top female applicant. Scholarships are awarded based on a combination of an applicant's accomplishments, including academic, non-academic, volunteerism and personal endeavours.



### **To qualify an applicant must:**

1. be a Canadian citizen (or permanent resident) and a resident of Alberta;
2. have at least one parent, or their legal guardian, be a member in good standing of EQUS at the time of application; and
3. be a recent high school graduate (graduating in the current year or one year previous to the current academic year) planning to enroll in the first year of a full-time, post-secondary program that is at least two years long.

### **To apply an applicant must submit:**

1. a completed application form;
2. an essay that outlines the applicant's study plan and career goals;
3. official transcripts; and
4. two letters of reference.

The application deadline is **August 1, 2016**.

For more information and an application form, please visit [www.equs.ca](http://www.equs.ca). If you have any questions, please contact Valdene Callin at 403.227.7541.

## **Helping our Northern Neighbours**

In response to the evacuation of Fort McMurray, EQUS employees hosted fundraising activities in our Area Offices, which raised \$827. This amount was match by EQUS and in total \$1,655 was donated towards the relief efforts.

EQUS' Community Connection Committee contacted an Evacuation Centre in Drayton Valley to see how we could best help affected individuals. An immediate need that wasn't being filled was supporting the families who took in the evacuees and were now making meals for three to seven extra people for every meal. To assist

with this need, the ECC donate \$1,655 in grocery and gas cards to the Evacuation Centre. The Drayton Valley Chamber of Commerce Vice-President then distributed the gift cards to over a dozen families who are supporting evacuees, some who left with only the clothes on their backs.

EQUS is proud to help support the evacuees from Fort McMurray who have been impacted by the wildfire. As a co-operative, we strongly believe in having concern for community and this is one of many ways we demonstrate our dedication to our community.



*ECC Committee Chair Killey Vaughan presents Della Curry, Evacuation Centre representative, with \$1,655 in grocery and gas gift cards.*

# New Opportunities for EQUUS in Rural Alberta

EQUUS is pleased to announce that we have received the final arbitration decision and a draft Integrated Operations Agreement (IOA) from the Arbitrator and we are expecting to receive a finalized IOA from the Arbitrator in the near future. The IOA will guide EQUUS' operations with FortisAlberta as the two wire-owners operate an overlapping electric distribution system in a single geographic region.

The new IOA follows an arbitration process that took place over 15 days in the fall of 2014. During the 15 days of the hearing, EQUUS and Fortis presented witnesses and testimony to speak to and respond to key issues before a designated Arbitrator. Pursuant to each testimony and cross-examination as presented by the parties, the Arbitrator also questioned witnesses. Throughout the process the EQUUS Board of Directors, management and employees worked closely with our legal team to ensure a thorough and compelling case was presented. The new IOA is result of the decision rendered by the Arbitrator.

EQUUS feels the new IOA is one of fairness that will increase the efficiencies of our interconnected system, while maintaining the safety and reliability of our systems. With this new IOA, EQUUS able to provide electrical distribution services to all consumers in our Service Area. This means



*We are confident the new IOA will benefit you - the members of EQUUS.*

that a consumer at any service level, from residential to commercial and industrial, can choose to be an EQUUS member or a Fortis customer. There will no longer be restrictions on who can be a member of the REA - EQUUS can serve anyone in its Service Area who wishes to receive their electrical distribution services as a member of EQUUS.

Once the IOA is finalized, we look forward to sharing more highlights with you. We are confident this decision will benefit EQUUS' members because as the EQUUS membership grows, greater economies of scale are realized, which translates into savings for members

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## Second Quarter Transmission Rate

Effective on your service to April 15 billing, your transmission rate increased. The FortisAlberta AUC approved rate, which is applicable for REAs, for Q2 of 2016 is 3.4471¢/kWh. Included in the calculation of this rate is a 2016 Balancing Pool Allocation Rider (BPAR), which is a credit, a Transmission Adjustment Rider (TAR), which is a charge and the Quarterly Transmission Adjustment Rider (QTAR), which is a charge. This increase reflects a 4.9 per cent increase from Q1 of 2016.

The QTAR applicable to EQUUS for Q2 of 2016 was initially posted by Fortis on their website incorrectly. If you receive your electricity bill from EQUUS, you were underbilled for system access as a result. Your current bill reflects the corrected adjustment. We apologize for this error. Should you have any questions regarding this adjustment, please contact your Member Service Administrator (MSA) who will be more than happy to provide you with further information. Your MSA is available toll-free at 1.888.211.4011.

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*It is very important to note that your electrical distribution system provider will always be EQUUS, regardless of who supplies your energy. Members who choose to obtain electricity (retail electricity services) from a party other than EQUUS will not be disadvantaged or in any way be treated differently by EQUUS. For a list of energy retailers, visit [www.ucahelps.alberta.ca](http://www.ucahelps.alberta.ca).*

**Mailing address:** Box 6199, 5803 42 Street, Innisfail, AB T4G 1S8

To report a power outage in your area, or for other services such as construction or vegetation management, please call your local Area Office.

**Main Office**  
Phone: 403.227.4011  
Toll-free: 1.888.211.4011  
Fax: 403.227.1007

**North Area Office**  
Phone: 780.967.3340  
Toll-free: 1.888.627.4011  
Fax: 780.967.3018

**Central Area Office**  
Phone: 403.227.7535  
Toll-free: 1.877.527.4011  
Fax: 403.227.7540

**South Area Office**  
Phone: 403.625.4154  
Toll-free: 1.888.565.5445  
Fax: 403.625.3569



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