

## We NEED Your Input... Join Us

Give your feedback on the Board's strategic plan at our Strategic Member Feedback Sessions.

As a co-operative, it is important to us to hear members' input on EQUS' services and the overall direction of the organization. This is why we're once again hosting three Strategic Member Feedback Sessions this November.

These sessions are an opportunity for members to hear about your Board of Directors' strategic priorities for next year and provide feedback and suggestions. Your input can make a big difference in that the Board will review the feedback received to determine if changes should be considered to the current direction.

**Join us at one of three sessions:**

- Thursday, November 2 – Lethbridge
- Tuesday, November 7 – Red Deer
- Wednesday, November 8 – Stony Plain



Take advantage of your co-operative rights as a member, and join us at a session near you! RSVP as soon as possible to secure your spot.

All sessions will be hosted in the evening from 6 until 8:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided. The locations of the sessions will be provided upon registration. There is limited room for each session, so be sure to RSVP.

**RSVP by October 27 to:**

Elizabeth Bishop, Administrative Assistant to the CEO:  
Phone: 403.227.7534 | Email: ebishop@equs.ca



# Need Some Green To Go Green?

Whether you are a farmer, business owner or resident, EQUS is pleased to share these government initiatives designed to put money back in your wallet. Funding is available on everything from purchasing energy efficient appliances to full solar PV installations to Irrigation efficiency improvements.

## Growing Forward 2

Growing Forward 2 is a partnership between the provincial, territorial and federal governments to invest in innovation, competitiveness and market development within the agricultural sector. If you have a project on your farm in any of the following areas you could be eligible for funding:

- On-Farm Solar Photovoltaics
- Irrigation Efficiency
- Livestock Welfare Processor
- Traceability
- On-Farm Water Management

For more information on the Growing Forward 2 initiative visit [growingforward.alberta.ca](http://growingforward.alberta.ca)

## Energy Efficiency Alberta

Energy Efficiency Alberta is a new Government of Alberta agency dedicated to helping you save money on your utility bills and helping the province consume less energy, creating a win-win for all Albertans. There are a variety of funding opportunities available including:

- Residential home improvements to insulation, windows and Tankless Hot Water Heaters;
- Rebates for upgrading to energy efficient appliances; and
- Up to 30% of the cost of a full solar installation
- Businesses, non-profit and institutions who choose high-efficiency products.

Visit [efficiencyalberta.ca](http://efficiencyalberta.ca) for more information.

## Co-op Week October 15-21

Co-op Week 2017 will take place from October 15 to 21.

Since 1982, this national celebration has been an opportunity for co-operative members to celebrate positive impacts that co-ops make in their lives and in their communities.

By operating under a co-operative business model, EQUS saved member-owners \$9.9 million in 2016. There is a direct economic impact to rural Alberta from these savings, as this money remains in the hands of members - enhancing the rural Alberta economy.

Learn more about how you can share your co-op pride this October by visiting the Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada (CMC) website: [canada.coop](http://canada.coop).



# Congratulations Scholarship Winners

EQUS recently announced the two winning applicants for our post-secondary scholarships. Erin Willsie and Cassandra Klass have each received \$1,000 towards their post-secondary education.



Erin Willsie (pictured top left) recently graduated from Caroline School, where she was able to balance her studies with a hefty schedule of dance, basketball and volleyball. Erin was also an active 4-H member and president.

Erin will be attending the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta in the Bachelor of Science program. She hopes to one day be a chiropractor and open a practice in Alberta.

During high school, Cassandra Klass (pictured bottom left) balanced classes and her role as the vice president and district council representative at the Claresholm 4-H club with her school work, graduating as the valedictorian at Willow Creek Composite High School. In her spare time, she was a life guard and taught swimming lessons.

Cassandra will be majoring in Agricultural Bio Technology at the University of Lethbridge. She hopes to use genetic engineering to create new crops that are more economically and environmentally sustainable.

Congratulations to these two students on their accomplishments. EQUS is proud to support you in your educational endeavours!

For more information on EQUS' initiatives to support our community and give back to our membership, please visit: [equs.ca/community](http://equs.ca/community).



## Operation Round Up

Applications are being accepted for the final round of Operation Round Up funding in 2017.

Recipients of funding are rural focused charities, organizations and projects that can clearly demonstrate the need for support.

Funding for the Operation Round Up program is provided by members who have opted to have their electric bills 'rounded up' to the next highest dollar. On average, each member contributes about \$6 per year.

Those interested in applying for this round of Operation Round Up funding should do so before December 31. To view application guidelines and to download an application form, [equs.ca/community/operation-round-up/](http://equs.ca/community/operation-round-up/).





An EQUS

*History Moment*

Harold Schnee (pictured) has been involved in REAs since the late 60s, when he became a board member for the Hoping REA.

The most notable change Schnee has witnessed has been in membership size. When Schnee started on the Hoping REA Board, the small REA only served 120 members. Today, EQUS serves nearly 12,000.

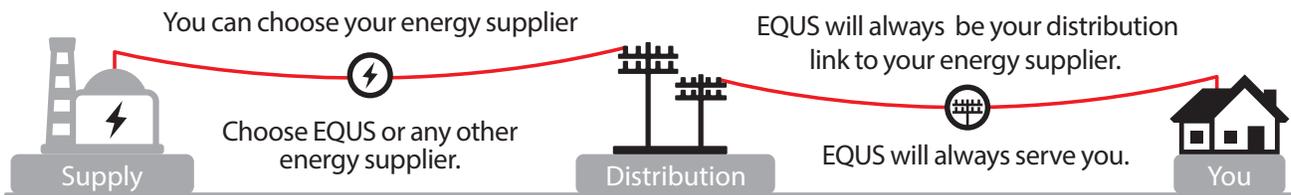
Without REAs, Schnee says Albertans would likely not have a choice in their provider, and prices would be substantially higher.

## Reminder Member Survey

The 2017 Member Survey was distributed in the September newsletter. The survey can also be completed online at:

[surveymonkey.com/r/2017EQUSMemberSurvey](http://surveymonkey.com/r/2017EQUSMemberSurvey).

Each year, we survey our membership to gather feedback. All responses to the member survey received by October 15 will be entered to win one of the following: the grand prize of one \$250 power bill credit or one of six \$75 power bill credits.



**All members are free to purchase electricity services through EQUS' regulated rate tariff or from a retailer of their choice. The delivery of electricity to you is not affected by your choice. If you change who you purchase electricity services from, you will continue receiving electricity from EQUS. For a current list of retailers you may choose from, visit [www.ucahelps.alberta.ca](http://www.ucahelps.alberta.ca) or call 310.4822 (toll free in Alberta).**

**Power Out?**

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

North Area Office  
1.888.627.4011

Central Area Office  
1.877.527.4011

South Area Office  
1.888.565.5445

Main Office  
1.888.211.4011

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



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