

## A Proud Partner for Life

EQUS has been a Canadian Blood Services Partner for Life since 2014 and encourages members to join our team!

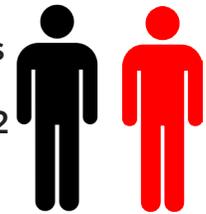
**D**onating blood is an easy and fast way you can give back to your community. About an hour of your time is all it takes to change someone's life and Canadian Blood Services is now making it easier than ever to help make a difference in your community, with their free mobile app, which sends reminders and allows you to easily manage appointments.

EQUS has been a Partner for Life with Canadian Blood Services since 2014 and challenges all EQUS friends, families and members to join together and donate blood. If you're already a blood donor, just mention EQUS' name, or our Partners for Life identifier (#EQUS312615), at your next appointment. If you've never donated before, visit [blood.ca](http://blood.ca) to register today.



**Canadian Blood Services**  
*it's in you to give*

Only 1 in **60** Canadians gave blood last year, when almost 1 of every 2 Canadians is eligible to donate blood.



**52%** of Canadians surveyed say they or a family member have needed blood or blood products.



We Challenge You To  
**Roll Up Your Sleeves**

Reminder: R.S.V.P.

# Annual General Meeting

Join us for our 2018 Annual General Meetings (AGMs), which will be hosted throughout our Service Area.

Our AGMs will be hosted over three days and locations.

In order to ensure adequate food and seating, please R.S.V.P. on or before March 21 by calling 1.888.211.4011.

AGM Meeting Agenda:

- 3 until 5 p.m. - Registration and connect with your Board and EQUUS staff
- 5 until 6:30 p.m. - Annual General Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. - Dinner

For more information on the AGMs, visit [www.equs.ca/members/events](http://www.equs.ca/members/events).



## AGM Dates and Locations

### South Area - Tuesday, March 27

The Coast Lethbridge Hotel & Conference Centre,  
Southern and Foothills Rooms  
526 Mayor Magrath Drive South, Lethbridge

### Central Area - Wednesday, March 28

Sheraton Red Deer Hotel, Tuscany Room  
3310 50 Avenue, Red Deer

### North Area - Thursday, March 29

Best Western Sunrise Inn & Suites,  
Ballroom and Atim Creek Rooms  
3101 43 Avenue, Stony Plain

## Members, Board and Staff... We All Give Back

Just a few ways we all give back to the communities we work and live in.

### Operation Round Up

EQUUS members' distribution tariffs and transmission fees are simply 'rounded up' to the next highest dollar and on average the contribution by an EQUUS member to the Operation Round Up program is about \$12 per year. While it is technically 'small change', it can and does build a funding program that can give back to the communities we all call home.

### Adopt-a-Family

During the holiday season, EQUUS' Board of Directors and staff work together in support of adopting families facing financial hardship in our Service Area.

Last year alone, EQUUS was able to help out 14 families with the money raised.

### EQUUS Community Connection

EQUUS employees are committed to making a difference in the communities we serve. The Employee Community Connection (ECC) Committee is an employee-run charity committee dedicated to making a difference year-round throughout our Service Area.

Since 2006, the ECC has helped raise more than \$163,000 for the betterment of communities in rural Alberta.

Do you have a charitable event you would like advertised? Email [communications@equs.ca](mailto:communications@equs.ca) and it could be advertised on social media and in a future EQUUS newsletter!

# Help Us Improve Outage Efficiencies

Locks that hinder access to members' properties are becoming increasingly more common. Please ensure EQUUS can access your property to maintain our equipment.

Not only do locks pose a problem when EQUUS staff are reading meters, but restricted access to a property could also mean longer outage restoration times, should we need to access equipment in the event of a power outage.

The safety of our members is of the utmost importance to EQUUS. We recognize these locks are likely an effort to reduce the risk of crime on members' properties, therefore, if a lock is necessary for you to have, EQUUS offers locks and lock boxes at no cost to members. Keys to these locks are registered and cannot be cut without approval by EQUUS.



Photo: Locks and lock boxes are available to members at no-cost.

Contact your Area Office in order to inquire about a lock and lock box.

## Operation Round Up(dates)

***The Operation Round Up Committee awarded the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society of Southern Alberta (CPAWS) with funds in quarter one of last year.***

Funds awarded to the organization from Operation Round Up went towards educating 250 rural youth within EQUUS' Service Area on conservation (pictured to the right). Programs such as these do not usually reach rural audiences due to high travel costs, but was made possible due to the funding awarded by Operation Round Up.

Could your organization benefit from Operation Round Up funding? The next deadline for funding is March 31, 2018.

For more information on the Operation Round Up Program and for a funding application, visit [www.equs.ca/community/operation-round-up](http://www.equs.ca/community/operation-round-up).



# Trees and Power Lines Don't Mix... Vegetation Management

Be mindful when planting vegetation, both for your safety and wallet!

To maintain a safe electrical system, vegetation near power lines must be managed. For safety reasons, members should not attempt to remove any vegetation within the vicinity of any power line.

If you have existing trees growing along a power line or near the transformer pole, EQUUS will charge you for

maintenance costs related to maintaining this vegetation growth. The current rate for tree trimming is \$150/hour.

Last year, these vegetation maintenance costs to trimming members' trees totalled over \$1.8 million, which meant higher rates for EQUUS members. In order to keep costs down for the entire membership, be sure to think before you plant, and, when in doubt, call your Area Office if you have any questions about planting trees in the vicinity of power lines.

## Think Before You Plant

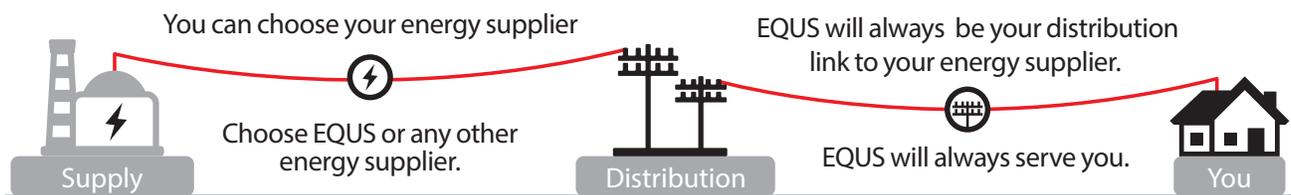
Follow these tips when planting new vegetation on your property.

- ⊙ look up before you plant;
- ⊙ consider how big a tree or other vegetation will grow, and how it may affect what you're doing;
- ⊙ plant taller varieties of trees farthest away from power lines; and
- ⊙ do not plant vegetation close to any electrical structures or equipment. Our Powerline Technicians (PLTs) need clear access for routine maintenance and emergencies.



At maturity, a tree's drip line (the outermost circumference of the tree canopy) is to be at least 6 metres away from any power lines.

For more information on planting tree selections, please contact your local nursery or EQUUS Area Office.



**All members are free to purchase electricity services through EQUUS' 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 EQUUS. 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