

# RSVP now for the 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

## You're invited to EQUS' 2019 Annual General Meetings!

EQUS is hosting three meetings throughout our Service Area. All EQUS members are invited to attend the meeting closest to them.

### Meeting Schedule:

#### **3 until 5 p.m. - Registration and Information Booths**

EQUS staff will be available to answer questions and provide information on current and upcoming programs and initiatives.

#### **5 until 6:30 p.m. - AGM**

A detailed agenda will be available at the meeting.

#### **6:30 p.m. - Dinner**

### New this year:

Arrive early for the information booths and complete your Passport to the AGM for a chance to spin the prize wheel and win great prizes. The grand prize at each AGM will be a gift certificate for a weekend stay at any one of the Charming Inns of Alberta ([charminginnsofalberta.com](http://charminginnsofalberta.com).)

Pre-registration is required prior to March 15, 2019 to ensure adequate seating and food is available. Please RSVP by calling 1.888.211.4011 or by emailing Megan Hanson, Event Specialist at [mhanson@equs.ca](mailto:mhanson@equs.ca).



## 2019 AGM Dates and Locations

### South Area - Monday, March 25

The Coast Lethbridge Hotel & Conference Centre

526 Mayor Magrath Drive South, Lethbridge

### Central Area - Tuesday, March 26

Radisson Red Deer Hotel

6500 67 Street, Red Deer

### North Area - Wednesday, March 27

Best Western Sunrise Inn & Suites

3101 43 Avenue, Stony Plain





# EQUS Member Spotlight: Current Prairie Fishermen

Co-generation is not a term that the average Albertan is likely to know, but at Current Prairie Fishermen near Nobleford, EQUS members Klaas Den Toom and his son Justin have become very familiar with it.

Co-generation is the simultaneous production of electricity and heat and the usage of both and, in this case, the use of the carbon dioxide produced in the process too. Between their tropical fish farm and greenhouse there is plenty of use for what they produce and, if community generation becomes more prominent in Alberta, the community could someday be able to utilize any excess.

A little over 10 years ago Klaas Den Toom made the decision to convert his pig farm into a tropical fish farm where they now raise tilapia and barramundi, supplying Vancouver's live fish market with over 10,000 fish a week. The decision to invest in the installation of 600kW of co-generation was made as it became apparent that their delicate system, that supports thousands of tropical fish by constantly circulating and pumping water, had little tolerance for loss of power. An outage of even an hour could cause a significant loss of fish, and living in an area where windstorms are frequent they needed a reliable solution. Natural gas fueled co-generation fit the bill.

Now able to generate all their own power, outages are no longer a concern, but the generators are at their highest efficiency when they're running at maximum capacity of 600kW, an amount of power the farm only needs on the coldest, darkest days of winter. Under current micro-generation regulations their fuel is not considered renewable, so although it provides efficient energy and the by-products (CO2 and heat) are contained and used, Current



Prairie Fishermen are unable to qualify as a micro-generator under existing regulations and are unable to put their excess power into the grid. It's a gap in regulations that the Den Tooms hope will soon be addressed as programs continue to evolve and as more farms and greenhouses become interested in co-generation.

**"From an environmental viewpoint, it's the way to go, using all of our by-products instead of releasing them, but it's tough being a trendsetter, because the rules are against us. We have the capacity and the technology to supply the grid and maximize the potential of our engines and that's what we want to do."**

*— Klaas Den Toom, pictured at right with son Justin and a co-generator*

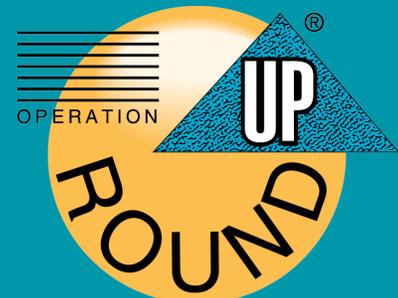
## Operation Round Up(dates)



The Southern Alberta chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) received \$2,500 in funding from Operation Round Up to bring their nature education program to 120 rural youth in EQUS' Service Area. In November, the students at FP Walshe school in Fort Macleod got to learn all about the plants and animals that live in Alberta.

*"The program was interactive for the students. Vanessa is a very good speaker, good transitions, and kept students interested. Matched very well with Grade 7 curriculum. It exceeded my expectations and reinforced what they are learning."*

*— Grade 7 teacher FP Walshe School.*



**Applications are now being accepted for funding in the first quarter of 2019, application deadline is March 31. Programs that benefit youth and seniors in EQUS' Service Area could be eligible to receive up to \$5,000.**

**For more information visit: [equs.ca/community/operation-round-up](http://equs.ca/community/operation-round-up)**



**[communications@equs.ca](mailto:communications@equs.ca)**

# Community Generation Program

In November the Government of Alberta announced \$200 million in funding for a new Community Generation Program. Community Generation is the generation of renewable and alternative energy that is connected to the distribution system and can then provide benefits to communities. By participating, Albertans can have the ability to access renewable energy and to generate revenue by selling electricity to the grid. The program will improve access to low-cost financing and provide revenue certainty to interested groups. Those who are eligible include municipalities, non-profits, co-operatives, educational institutions, first nations and others.



**“As the largest member-owned utility in Canada, we see small-scale community generation as a progressive step forward for rural Alberta. EQUS sees a real opportunity to work with our local municipalities and developers to partner on projects that will benefit the rural communities, including EQUS’ members. We commend the government for taking this important step forward for rural Alberta, and we look forward to providing our expertise into the program details.”**

*— EQUS CEO Patricia Bourne, who joined Environment and Parks Minister Shannon Phillips to announce the program at the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Fall Convention in November.*

Find out more about the program online at [efficiencyalberta.ca/commgen](http://efficiencyalberta.ca/commgen)

Partners  
For Life



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

## We're Rolling Up Our Sleeves

Donating 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. In 2018, EQUS staff and members were challenged to achieve a goal of donating 15 units of blood. The numbers are in and we are proud to announce that we went above and beyond, donating 26 units of blood in 2018. In 2019 we hope for a repeat performance and have set our new goal at 20 units.

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.



We Challenge You To

# Roll Up Your Sleeves

**EQUS.CA**

# CHOOSE TO KEEP A CHOICE IN POWER

**FortisAlberta is working to gain exclusive rights within urban municipalities and using annexations to force REA members to transfer services.**

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) has approved an application from FortisAlberta that sought exclusive rights to serve in urban municipalities that have Municipal Franchise Agreements. This decision effectively alters the boundaries of their service area and forces residents now within those boundaries to transfer their existing REA services and infrastructure to FortisAlberta. EQUS is currently appealing this decision as it will adversely affect many REA members throughout Alberta.

The AUC made their decision “in the public interest”; eliminating choice is never in the public interest. Residents deserve to have a choice in maintaining their current electric distribution service provider now, and in the future.

To find out more about AUC proceeding 22164 that granted the request for exclusive service rights to FortisAlberta go to <https://bit.ly/2EHirY6>

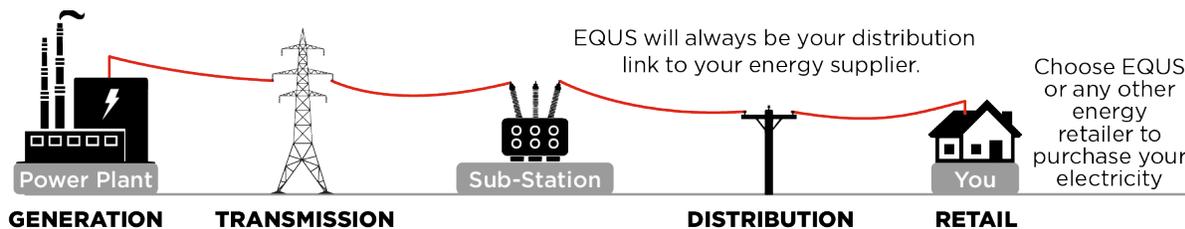
## First Quarter Transmission Rate

### Quarterly update on transmission charges

Effective on your January 31 billing, your transmission rate decreased. The FortisAlberta AUC approved rate, which is applicable for REAs, for Q1 of 2019 is 4.6267¢/kWh. Included in the calculation of this rate is:

- a 2019 Balancing Pool Allocation Rider (BPAR), which is a charge;
- a Transmission Adjustment Rider (TAR), which is a charge; and
- the Quarterly Transmission Adjustment Rider (QTAR), which is a charge.

This rate reflects a 5.01% decrease from Q4 of 2018.



**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.

**Main Office**

1.888.211.4011

**North Area Office**

1.888.627.4011

**Central Area Office**

1.877.527.4011

**South Area Office**

1.888.565.5445

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

**EQUS**  
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DELIVERING  
MORE THAN **POWER**