



member owned. member driven.



FIRST QUARTER 2017 NEWSLETTER

March 31, 2017

Chairmans Report

Every year brings new challenges for your power co-op and this year has been no different. A change in government has impacted REA's across Alberta on both the electricity supply and the daily operation of your wires.

As a Regulated Rate Option supplier, we are greatly impacted by the government's announcement that the RRO will be capped at 6.8 cents per kilowatt. With the market price of electricity priced under the cost of production for the last year or so the province has decided to move to a capacity market by 2021, ensuring power producers continued investment in new generation and, they hope, green energy projects. But in the meantime, we still have some hedges that keep our power prices higher than other retailer's in the market. We are presently working with the province to help us through this market change. One way or another we are confident that over the next year we will be able to move our power prices for our members closer to the rest of the market or at least to the market cap.

On the operation's side of the REA, we are changing the way that you are billed for the distribution part of your bill. By having a fixed charge for O&M (Operations and Maintenance) and then charging a price per kilowatt members can control their bill by the amount of power they use. Another benefit to the new rate structure, is that it better enables renewable energy alternatives (i.e. solar or wind) for such activities as pumping water or lighting. Reducing the amount of power you buy will reduce the distribution and transmission cost as well.

With all our best efforts to control costs we know that transmission charges will continue to increase your bills and as an example the carbon tax for electricity is added at the transmission point so for us it is hidden in that cost and will increase from \$15 now to \$50 over the next few years.

Our linemen continue to work at improving the efficiency of our system to help prevent outages, as well as an aggressive brushing program to keep up with the extra tree growth we have seen in the last few years. We encourage you, the member, to do the same after your meter to make sure your own electrical system is working properly. If your farm operation has changed you may be able to disconnect parts of your system where power might be going to ground. This is also a safety issue and can reduce the chance of fire.

The board would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for finding ways to reduce costs while maintaining a very reliable and safe power system. We would also thank you the members for your support in these changing times.

Charles Newell, Board Chair

Announced at the March Annual General Meeting (AGM) were a number of new and upcoming initiatives being introduced effective June 1, 2017. Some of the key ones are highlighted below:

- New Distribution Rate structure (reflective of size and use, and provides for conservation savings)
- New Energy Pricing
- New electricity bill layout
- Reduced contract administration fees
- Idle service process efficiencies
- Payment option changes - credit card use & fees
- Introducing a new outage reporting app (coming soon)

In the interest of enhancing member communications, more specifically for those who were not in attendance, watch for information on these items in a direct mail piece that should arrive in your mailbox within the next week or so.



New Loyalty Partner



Prairie Gardens and Adventure Farm has joined our Loyalty Program. Their Spring Country Gardener Offer is:
Buy 4 and Get 1 Free (of equal or lesser value) of the following products:
Plants, Flowers, Fruit Trees, Berries, n' Ice Cream.

Location: 56311 Lily Lake Road Bon Accord, AB ToA oKo Toll Free:
 1.888.921.2270 Website: <https://prairiegardens.org/>

For more information on our Loyalty Program visit:
<http://www.npprea.ca/loyalty-program/>

Board of Directors:

Zone 1

George Brodniansky 780-576-2144
 Harold Hamilton 780-398-2168

Zone 2

George Vansevanandt (Vice Chair) 780-939-6913
 Jacob Middelkamp 780-942-3805

Zone 3

Richard Filipchuk 780-656-0522
 Charles Newell (Chair) 780-809-2247

Zone 4

Harvey Yoder 780-623-0556
 Carl Beniuk 780-689-6430

The Staff and Management of North Parkland Power would like to thank the members who attended the AGM on March 16, 2017.

Also, congratulations to the following Board Members **George Brodniansky** (Zone 1), **George Vansevanandt** (Zone 2) and **Harvey Yoder** (Zone 4) who were re-appointed Directors, by acclamation, for a 3 year term.

SPECIAL NOTICE



Please be advised that our linemen are performing a system wide audit that requires them to perform a site visit at each of our members services. Please do not be alarmed if you see one of our Linemen in a North Parkland Power truck inspecting your service.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please feel free to call the office toll free at: For **outage updates** and other informational tidbits please visit us at www.npprea.ca and "Like" us on Facebook

Complaints about contraventions of the Code of Conduct Regulation may be made to the Alberta Utilities Commission or the Market Surveillance Administrator. The Alberta Utilities Commission can be reached by contacting 1-780-427-4903 or consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca. The Market Surveillance Administrator can be reached by contacting 1-403-705-3181 or compliance@albertamsa.ca.

The Alberta Utilities Commission and the Market Surveillance Administrator are independent of North Parkland Power Rural Electrification Association Ltd.