

# News letter

January 2020



**310-POWER**

## New Year Greeting from the Board Chair

—*Bob Bryant*

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of the Blue Mountain Power Co-op (BMPC), I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2020.

In 2019 BMPC was introduced to matters that may well change the course of your organization's history. As has been communicated in the past, BMPC and FortisAlberta have been engaged in an escalating market turf war. FortisAlberta has arbitrated BMPC's right to provide service to non-agricultural and non-residential consumers. Arbitration commenced in May 2019 and formal procedures were completed in December. The question of whether or not BMPC can serve all consumers regardless of end use will be decided by Arbitrator Terrence McMahon early in the New Year. A decision in BMPC's favor would greatly expand BMPC's revenue base and provide the economies of scale required to provide long term affordable service to all of our members.

In the area of renewable energy, BMPC received a \$301,000 Provincial grant which will be used to explore the feasibility of generating renewable energy within our Geographical Service Area. A study is under way and will be complete by the fall of 2020.

As BMPC grows, the Board and management continue to plan responsibly for the resources required to sustain this growth in the areas of safety, system construction and maintenance.

The safety of our employees and our members remains at the forefront of all that we do at BMPC. This focus has helped us build a strong record of safety with no lost time injuries during the year. In 2019 BMPC scored an impressive 91% in an independent COR Safety Audit.

Despite province-wide economic challenges, BMPC demonstrated significant growth in system construction and maintenance. BMPC constructed thirty-one (31) new services which resulted in adding 758 kVA to the system. This is a 36% increase over the amount of kVA added in 2018.

Other areas of maintenance included control of vegetation growth around our lines and the replacement of older components of our systems such as poles, transformers and meter boxes. Detailed metrics of the maintenance program are always provided at our Annual General Meetings in April.

Each year BMPC invests time and energy to support our local community. Some of these initiatives include support and participation in local parades and community events.

Our annual Scholarship program was a success again in 2019, with 6 applications submitted. On a competitive basis, scholarships were awarded to Kelsey Vig, Jordyn Valstar and Courtney Alstott, graduates of Bentley School, Rimbey Jr/Sr High School and Caroline School respectively. These exceptional students were awarded \$1,000 each for academic excellence which will be used towards their post-secondary education.

It is with great pleasure that I commend my fellow board members, management and staff for the commitment and hard work demonstrated in the past year. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our appreciation toward all of our members for your ongoing support and wish you all the best in 2020!

## Call for Nomination of Directors

If you are interested in becoming a Director of the Blue Mountain Power Co-op Board, nomination packages are available for pick up at the Blue Mountain Power Co-op office during regular office hours: 8:00am – 4:00pm.

The nomination package includes:

- The Nomination Form
- Duties and Responsibilities of a Director
- Eligibility Criteria including a Criminal Record Check
- Information on the Blue Mountain Power Co-op

Nomination forms, along with all required documentation, must be received by the Blue Mountain Power Co-op office (4920-43st, Box 1538, Rocky Mountain House, AB T4T 1B2) no later than **12:00 noon, January 30, 2020**.

The election will be conducted at the Association's Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held on April 22, 2020 at the Dovercourt Hall.

For more information please contact the Corporate Secretary (Jerry Reglin) at the Blue Mountain Power Co-op Office 403-845-4600 ext 106 or the Nomination Sub-Committee comprised of Bob Bryant 403-845-7168, Reg Dean 403-845-8891 or Tim Layton 403-843-6403.

## Energy Purchase Options

The Provincial Rate Cap limiting the Regulated Rate Option (RRO) to a maximum of 6.8 cents per kWh has now been officially terminated. Blue Mountain Power Co-op members have options for the energy portion of your bill:

- ◆ Remain on the RRO (variable rate) currently set at 7.5 cents per kWh for January. No action is required for this option.
- ◆ Enter into a Fixed Term Stable Rate Energy Contract with Blue Mountain Power. The contract price is 7.5 cents per kWh and will run from February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021. (Members may start at any time during the term.) If you wish to purchase your energy from Blue Mountain Power on a contract basis, please contact the BMPC office via email at [bmpc@bmpower.coop](mailto:bmpc@bmpower.coop) or via phone at 310-POWR (7697).

Customers are free to purchase natural gas services or electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit [ucahelps.alberta.ca](http://ucahelps.alberta.ca) or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta) .



### Contact the Blue Mountain Power Co-op and Computer Services:

**Phone: 310-POWR (7697)**

**E-mail: [bmpc@bmpower.coop](mailto:bmpc@bmpower.coop)**

**Address: 4920 - 43 Street (Box 1538), Rocky Mountain House, AB, T4T 1B2**

