

Newsletter

September 2021



310-POWR



Pole Testing

Genics, on behalf of the Blue Mountain Power Co-op will be performing routine pole testing, which may require access to your property during the month of September. Thank you for partnering with us in our commitment to a safe and economical pole maintenance program.

Blue Mountain Power Co-op Gives Back to the Community

Blue Mountain Power Co-op Announces 2021 Scholarship Recipients

Blue Mountain Power Co-op recently announced the recipients of two \$1,000 Blue Mountain Power Co-op scholarships: Vera Brettelle and Rayelle Cooper, graduates of St. Dominic Catholic High School and David Thompson High School.

Vera Brettelle will be attending the Red Deer College. She is enrolled in a Bachelor of Science in Pre-Veterinary Medicine.

As well as achieving consistently high grade averages, Vera is an excellent role model. She tutors, as well as volunteers at the local veterinary clinic.



Rayelle Cooper will be attending Mount Royal University. She is enrolled in a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science.

A dedicated student and musician, Rayelle also volunteers in the community. She has been an active member of the Junior Forest Wardens, as well as mentoring new and younger members.



Utility Payment Deferral Program

On March 18, 2020, The Government of Alberta announced the “Utility Payment Deferral Program” which enabled electricity customers to defer payments on utility accounts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This deferral period concluded on June 18, 2020, and participants of the program had 1 year (until June 18, 2021) to repay their deferred payments. All amounts that were not repaid across the province were added to a small, temporary rate rider – a fee paid by all utility customers in the province – with one for natural gas and one for electricity. This rider will be effective November 1, 2021 for a 4-month period, at an amount of 0.045 cents/kWh or \$0.00045/kWh (A typical charge would be 27 cents per month or \$1.08 over 4 months).

The Alberta Utilities Commission coordinated the rate rider process and finalized the total cost based on the outstanding amounts owed through the deferral process. Minister Nally released a statement on the Utility Payment Deferral Program and the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) issued an announcement when the decisions were released.

Blue Mountain Power Co-op has been actively advocating that its Members should not be subject to this rate rider, as no BMPC Members participated in the program. Unfortunately, the AUC and the Utility Payment Deferral Program Act dictate that the unpaid electricity bills shall be spread across the provincial customer base through a temporary rate rider. As an electricity provider in Alberta, BMPC must comply with this decision.

BMPC will remit the payment as a lump sum on behalf of all the members, therefore the members will not see the charge on their utility bill. The purpose of this decision is to minimize the cost for the members by eliminating the additional programming and administration fees within the billing system.

Finally, if you have any questions related to government policy on the Utility Payment Deferral Program and accompanying legislation, they can be directed to Philip Shum at the Alberta Department of Energy by email at philip.shum@gov.ab.ca

Avoid Missing a Payment—Sign up for Monthly Autopay

BMPC is encouraging members to sign up for monthly autopay. Members have the option to have their monthly utility bill charged directly to a credit card or automatically debited from a bank account on the last business day of each month. If you would like to sign up for autopay, please send an email to bmpc@bmpower.coop or call our office at 310-POWR (7697).



Contact the Blue Mountain Power Co-op:

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