

# Shock Talk



www.carea.ca  
September 2011 ~ Issue 131

## ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION APPLICATION UPDATE

CAREA would like to remind its members of the Association's current application that is before the Alberta Utilities Commission.

This application was filed on Sept. 30, 2010, and the intent of the application was to clarify CAREA's service area. Filing this application was done as part of a long-term viability strategy. The Board of Directors has the responsibility to protect the interests of CAREA's owner-members and filing this application was part of protecting those interests.

Below is an update on the current status of the application:

- Entities such as ATCO and FortisAlberta Inc., which intervened in the application process, submitted information requests of CAREA. Information requests are simply questions they would like CAREA to answer.
- CAREA responded to these requests.
- ATCO and FortisAlberta Inc. were not satisfied with CAREA's responses and have filed a motion with the Alberta Utilities Commission, requesting that CAREA provide further and better responses to a number of the information requests. Further, they have requested that the proceeding be suspended until such further and better responses are provided.
- CAREA has now filed a response to this motion.
- The next step will be for the Alberta Utilities Commission to determine if it will approve the motion ATCO and FortisAlberta Inc. put forward, or deny this motion because the Commission is satisfied with CAREA's responses.

The overall process has taken longer than CAREA anticipated, but CAREA will continue to act and respond to the Alberta Utilities Commission in a straightforward and respectful manner.

## CAREA CARES GOLF TOURNAMENT REACHES NEW HEIGHTS



*A great day for golfing at the CAREA Cares golf tournament!*

The fifth annual CAREA Cares golf tournament was a resounding success, with participants raising over \$7,000 for the Association's charity of choice, Big Brothers Big Sisters of central and northern Alberta.

Last year's total was \$6,811, and this year participants raised \$7,040!

Eighteen teams participated in the event, which was held on July 27, 2011, at the Bowden Hi-Way Golf Course, with prizes awarded for the longest putt, longest drive, closest shot to the pin and two prizes, worth \$10,000 each, for a hole in one.

The CAREA Cares committee selected Big Brothers Big Sisters to be its charity of choice for the next three years.

Since 2007, CAREA employees have made a commitment to raise funds for charity through events such as the CAREA Cares golf tournament, other staff-run events, 50/50 draws, pop machine sales and CAREA Cares cookbook sales.

For more photos of the event, please visit CAREA's website at [www.carea.ca](http://www.carea.ca), click on Current News and Issues and then scroll down to REA Activities. There is a PDF there available for download.



*Winning team members: Dave Wigmore, Ed Beniuk, Doug Drozd and Bill Donahue.*

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

To report a power outage in your area, or for other service, construction or vegetation inquiries please call your Area Office.  
For meter reads and billing questions please call Main Office.

**Innisfail Area Office**  
Phone: 403-227-7535  
Toll Free: 1-877-527-4011  
Fax: 403-227-7540

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Toll Free: 1-888-627-4011  
Fax: 780-967-3018

Great ideas  
are meant to be shared!

If you know someone that is going to buy a rural acreage or farm, wants to establish a business in a rural area, is thinking about subdividing land or has been approached by an oil/gas or telecommunications company about leasing land, call us today and let us know that person's name and contact information. We can handle the rest!

If that person does become a CAREA member, your name and the name of the person you referred will be entered into a draw for \$500!

## REMINDER ABOUT PHONE CALLS

Telephone calls, both incoming and outgoing, may be recorded by CAREA for quality assurance and government compliance purposes. If you do not want your call to be recorded, please speak with our representative about alternative correspondence options.



## IMPORTANT REMINDER REGARDING YOUR CO-OPERATIVE ENERGY RATE PROVISION OPTION TERM

You have the yearly option to determine the term of your Energy Rate Contract. All you need to do is to give CAREA notice in writing before the end of November 2011 that you wish to have your energy service end Dec. 31, 2014. If you do not tell us before the end of November 2011 that you want your term to end Dec. 31, 2014, you are agreeing to extend the term of your energy rate provision a further year (to Dec. 31, 2015).

You continue to have this option each year. If you have any questions, please call a CAREA service representative.

## MLAS DISCUSS REAS

Over the past few months, CAREA has met with the majority of the PC leadership candidates – Doug Griffiths, Alison Redford, Doug Horner and Gary Mar. CAREA also plans to meet with the rest of the candidates over the next few weeks – Ted Morton and Rick Orman.

The purpose of the meetings was to bring REA issues, in particular CAREA issues, to the attention of the candidates. CAREA and the candidates discussed the importance of REAs in rural Alberta and asked the candidates how they saw the REAs fitting into their vision of the future of rural Alberta.

CAREA representatives found the meetings to be informative and productive, and afterwards sent a question to each candidate to answer, "What will you do to support rural Alberta and the ongoing viability of REAs?" The intent of the question was to provide an opportunity for CAREA to communicate this to its membership.

To date, CAREA has only had a response from Doug Griffiths, Alison Redford and Gary Mar, and those responses are listed below. As CAREA receives the balance of the responses, they will be included in the newsletter.

### Doug Griffiths

"REAs have an important role in building rural Alberta and ensuring the success of rural communities, by providing access to Alberta's electrical grid. I strongly support the growth and development of communities and would want to sit down with rural community stakeholders and map out the role of and how REAs will continue to contribute to rural Alberta's future success and development."

### Alison Redford

"To answer your question, I believe that REAs are a critical means of keeping rural communities and especially family farms – Alberta's backbone – viable now and for future generations. As technology advances and urbanization increases, Alberta's REAs will increasingly act as stabilizing forces, prompting continued economic development in rural communities. As Premier, I will work to create an appropriate legislative and regulatory framework to assure that REAs remain successful across the province."

### Gary Mar

"As leader, I will continue to promote an open and competitive electricity industry in Alberta that will attract investment over the long term and also provide competitively priced electricity for Albertans."

"Rural Electrification Associations (REAs) have been important to the development of rural Alberta and continue to play a role in providing electrical service to rural areas in the province. To encourage the ongoing viability of REAs, I would identify ways government can support REAs who choose to become involved in distributed energy and small scale renewable power production done by farmers, co-ops, schools and municipalities. I believe there may be an opportunity for REAs to play a role in developing renewable energy in the province."

## CAREA AT THE SUNDRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TRADE FAIR

CAREA will have a booth set up in Sundre curling rink on **Wednesday, Sept. 14**, for the Sundre Chamber of Commerce trade fair.

The trade fair will begin at 9 a.m. and CAREA is at booth #4. Please stop by and say "hi!"

## SMART GRID INQUIRY REPORT OVERVIEW

The Alberta Utilities Commission issued the Smart Grid Inquiry Report earlier this year.

The purpose of the inquiry was to provide information to the Alberta government, so the government could consider implementing policies to support the deployment of smart grid technology. Moving forward with smart grid technology is a goal within Alberta's Provincial Energy Strategy.

CAREA has produced an article on the report, which you can find on the website, [www.carea.ca](http://www.carea.ca), under Current News and Issues and then under News. There is a PDF there available for download.

It is very important to note that your distribution system provider will always be CAREA regardless of who supplies your energy. Members who choose to obtain electricity (retail electricity services) from a party other than CAREA will not be disadvantaged or in any way be treated differently by CAREA. For a list of energy retailers visit [www.ucahelps.gov.ab.ca](http://www.ucahelps.gov.ab.ca).