

BC Hydro 2015 Rate Design Module 2 Customer Group Meeting

Summary

31 January 2017

10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Fort Ware (Kwadacha), BC

3. Rate Options for Zone II

Shane Hiebert provided information about Rate Options for Zone II customers and the pros and cons of each.

FEEDBACK		RESPONSE
1.	<p>The current price of electricity is really hard on people because the cost of living here is very high. Food and groceries are very expensive.</p> <p>The only way to avoid using electricity in the winter for heat is to go out and chop wood, which is really hard for elders, as well as others in the community.</p>	
2.	<p>Income levels are not sufficient to cover high bills from BC Hydro. Our OAP is between \$1300 and \$1500 per month.</p> <p>Employment opportunities are limited here because of our remoteness, so our OAP is lower than what it would be in other places.</p> <p>A person becomes an Elder in Kwadacha at age 55, but is not eligible for OAP until age 65. People between the ages of 55 and 65 depend on income assistance from INAC to cover their living expenses, which is significantly less than OAP.</p>	
3.	<p>Elders in our community successfully lived on the land for most of their lives, and this [being customers of BC Hydro] is a new process for them. They need lots of support and coaching during this transition as they don't have the experience or knowledge to understand or manage their consumption or bills.</p> <p>Most of the people in this room did not grow up in a situation where they had hydro or hydro bills they needed to manage.</p> <p>We never had to pay for electricity before we were customers of BC Hydro.</p>	
4. B	<p>BC Hydro built the Williston Reservoir without consulting the people of Kwadacha. The Finlay River was their highway, and the Kwadacha Elders have very strong feelings about what the Williston did to their lives.</p> <p>It is a slap in the face that they have to pay such high hydro bills when they were the most impacted by the construction of the integrated system that serves [Zone I] customers who pay lower rates.</p>	