

Canmore and Red Deer, Alberta – May 17, 2016

\*\*\*Can provide photos separately

**FortisAlberta osprey cameras near Canmore and Red Deer provide live views of nesting activities**

FortisAlberta has installed a second osprey nesting camera near our Employee Development Centre in Red Deer County in response to the interest the company received from the first camera installed near Canmore since 2013. The osprey pairs have both returned to their nests and the Canmore area pair is already busy keeping their eggs warm. Through a live video stream, you can get a bird's eye view with sounds as the hatchlings emerge from their eggs over the upcoming weeks.

“Nesting platforms are used as a means to reduce the risk of the osprey being electrocuted and disrupting power to customers,” says Natasha Russell, Communications Advisor. “FortisAlberta has an ongoing Avian Protection Plan, which includes retrofitting our poles to reduce bird interactions and adopting management practices that protect them.”

FortisAlberta protects osprey and other birds of prey by actively discouraging nest building on energized power poles, and by relocating them from live poles to pre-constructed nesting platforms on poles installed nearby. The company's success with this best practice has seen more than 36 poles installed throughout its service area with more than half of these currently being used.

Ospreys mate for life and will return to the same nest year-after-year after spending their migration south, apart from one another. Nests are located close to bodies of water as fish make up 99 per cent of their diet. They lay two to three eggs in mid-May and hatchlings will emerge in about five weeks. When the fledglings are three months old they will leave the nest.

You can view FortisAlberta's osprey cameras at: <https://www.youtube.com/FortisAB> or through a link on our website at <http://fortisalberta.com>.

**About FortisAlberta**

As owner and operator of more than 60 per cent of Alberta's total electricity distribution network and more than 120,000 kilometres of power lines, FortisAlberta's focus is the safe and reliable delivery of electricity to its 530,000 customers in 200 communities across Alberta.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

**Natasha Russell**

Corporate Communications Advisor

FortisAlberta, Inc.

Tel: 403-514-4682

E: [natasha.russell@fortisalberta.com](mailto:natasha.russell@fortisalberta.com)





