



Probus Club of Central Edmonton

February 2016

Editor: Ken Hoffman

Tour: February 16– U of A utility building

The visit to the U. of A. utility building started with an excellent presentation from Laura (left most individual in the following picture). The presentation was a compelling mix of the verbal and video that introduced us to the concept of “District” utilities services and what that meant at the U. of A. District utility services refers to the central delivery of services, such as heating, to a number of buildings in the area. The U. of A. has the largest district system in Canada and one of the largest in North America. Members present displayed their interest through the many questions. The presentation was followed by an extensive tour of the new facility. We started with a chilled water facility. The building we toured has one of the two on campus. Water is chilled to 5° Celsius and is pushed out across campus. Next, we looked at the steam production equipment. Campus buildings are heated by the steam generated in this facility. Steam is also used to run generators that can provide up to 25% of the U. of A. power needs. We wrapped up with a look at the start of the extensive system of tunnels which house the pipes, power cables and gas lines that deliver services to the various buildings.

It was quite a remarkable facility with a complex array of pumps, pipes and tanks. Thanks to our tour guides Laurel and Luca.

While we were unable to take photos of the facility, Luca helped with the following group photo.

