



WHEN CAN I APPLY TO HAVE MY EQUITY REPAID?

Under the bylaws of the Prairie Co-operative, there are **FIVE** options available for members to withdraw their equity:

1. ESTATE WITHDRAWAL:

In the event of the death of a member, the Co-operative will pay all equity to the member's estate. Once the executors sign the application, it will be dealt with at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting. Payment is issued shortly after the Board Meeting. If a surviving spouse wishes to retain the same Co-op number, this should be indicated by the executor on the original Application for Withdrawal, and \$100 will be retained in order to keep the membership active. Estate withdrawals require proof of death and confirmation of the Administrator.

2. WHEN THE MEMBER REACHES THE AGE OF 65:

Application for repayment can be made any time after the member reaches the age of 65. In the case of a joint membership, it is based on the age of the primary member (the one listed first on the membership form). These applications will be approved by the Board and paid on a monthly basis to the minimum equity level unless otherwise stated. It is the intention of this policy to repay yearly to the minimum equity level over age accounts, which have previously applied. This payment will be made after the close of each fiscal year.

3. MOVED AWAY:

Application can be made for withdrawal upon leaving the trading area. Withdrawal applications will be processed one year from the date the Board approval is received. Applications for withdrawal from initial membership held outside of the Trading Area will be considered if the membership has re-established residence outside of the Trading Area.

4. MEMBER OVER 65 (INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP):

Application for withdrawal of equity by those members 65 years of age and older will be given consideration if the membership is inactive. Membership will be considered inactive if yearly purchases are less than \$100.00 in the previous two years. Applications will be paid upon Board approval.

5. OTHER:

The Co-operative may at times be requested to pay out equities for other reasons than noted above. Some of the reasons would include bankruptcy, marriage breakdown, and residence in a care home. These will require Board approval and will be paid as decided. The following conditions will apply:

- A) **Bankruptcy:** Upon receipt by the Co-op of a notice of bankruptcy from the trustee and Board approval, the Co-op will issue a cheque to the trustee for the \$100.00 membership fee. The balance of the equity account will be paid to the trustee at the end of the 20 year holding period. It should be noted that the member is no longer allowed to use the membership number and will not receive any patronage allocation.
- B) **Marriage Breakdown:** If members divorce, the Co-op may consider an application to pay each a percentage of the equity as agreed to by the couple in their application when one or both partners leaves our trading area. If the partners remain in our trading area, the amounts will be transferred to new membership accounts, and will fall under the normal terms of repayment.
- C) **Care Homes:** Applications for withdrawal of equity can be made by members 65 years of age and over who are inactive, live in Prairie Co-op's Trading Area, and are in a nursing care home. This inactive member must have less than \$100.00 in yearly purchases. Applications will be paid upon Board approval.

It should be noted that except in the case of a Moved Away or Estate, the Co-op will not issue an equity cheque for less than twenty five dollars.