

CONTACTOR



Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta Newsletter

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"The Voice of the Electrical Industry in the Province of Alberta"

11235 - 120 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5G 2X9 • Phone: (780) 451-2412 Fax: (780) 455-9815 Website: www.ecaa.ab.ca

President's Message

It has been almost a year since I was given the honour and privilege of being elected as your Provincial President. One of the things that amazed me in the past 10 months is the commitment and dedication of the staff and members of our Association, especially from some of the smaller 1 to 10 employee contractors. How they can make the time to attend Chapter and Provincial board meetings, sit on sometimes both executives, chair committees, participate in the socials and run their businesses is a true testament to their commitment to our association. This dedication also confirms the "value" of being a member of our Association.



DJ Coppens

The executives and staff of the ECAA have been and continue to work diligently on improving our Association and stepping to the plate to deal with the ever-changing aspects of our industry. Providing a new affordable benefit plan for our members and "voicing" our members concerns with government policies, permit regulations and the Enhanced Masters program are just some of the ongoing issues challenging our industry. Our website continues to be increasingly accessed by more and more individuals looking for various information with regards to the electrical industry.

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the thousands of volunteer hours donated by our members and associate members and their continued dedication in ensuring that the ECAA continues to provide "value added" benefits for our members.

In closing, I want to extend an invitation to all our members and associate members to attend our AGM to be held at the WEM, Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton, May 30-31. Your attendance and participation is essential to the continued success of the ECAA.

Chapter Reports

Calgary

Doug Fraser, PEC

We began the New Year with our January chapter meeting that was attended by approximately 90 people. Thanks to Enmax for sponsoring the bar. Shane Dalager, from SAIT, presented 13 new Masters with their certificates. Lou Greco from the City of Calgary gave an excellent power point presentation on the city's project plan submission process. The report included detailed information about short circuit current calculations. It was very informative and the membership appreciated his time and effort.

Prior to the Alberta provincial election, 27 Calgary PECs met with Lou Heimer to discuss the PEC/Master regulation. Members voted unanimously to accept the proposed regulation.

Thank you to EECOL for hosting the cocktails at our February chapter meeting. A topic of discussion was the current cost of materials. Steve Dunne reminded us of increases in the cost of copper. Due to factors in the global market, China is no longer selling to American markets; they are selling to Asia instead. The cost of wire has risen 18% since January 1st and steel is on the verge of going through the roof (pipe increasing 300% - 400%).



The ECAA will be hosting a booth at the Calgary Construction Association job fair at the Round-Up Centre on April 23rd and we are looking for volunteers to help man the booth. If you are interested in giving some of your time, please contact Al Miller, our CCA rep. We are looking to have someone from the CCA Youth Employment as a speaker at one of our future meetings.

The Provincial Board meeting was held in Calgary in March. A number of members of the provincial executive stayed to attend our Industry Casino Night that evening. Thanks go to Steve Dunne and Sophie Schmaltz for organizing the event and to the associate members for manning the tables.

A reminder that April 10th is election night for the Calgary Chapter. If you are interested in putting your name forward or would like additional information about vacant executive or committee chair positions please contact Elver Olsen. I encourage all members to attend to ensure that a quorum is met. Details regarding our May meeting and year end social will be available on the website.

In closing I would like to congratulate Sophie Schmaltz on her appointment to the Provincial Board of Directors as Public Member. Sophie has been an active volunteer for the Calgary Chapter and is a great supporter of our association.

Edmonton

Terry Milot

The first meeting of 2008 was attended by 48 members and guests. Thank you to Brodwell Industrial Sales for hosting the cocktails. Members were updated on Apprenticeship, recent Professional Electrical Contractor meetings, Code issues and Communications. Fourteen new masters and three new members were presented with their certificates and plaques. Arman Chak, Alberta Human Rights & Citizenship Commission, spoke on *Duty to Accommodate*.



February saw 50 members and guests attend the meeting. Thank you to Western Electrical Management who hosted the cocktails. Guest speakers were from Cablofil Inc and Gripple Inc. Bob Clarke at Brodwell Industrial Sales can be contacted for more information or a product demonstration. Members were updated on Apprenticeship, Code, Communications, Labour, new Permit Regulation, Socials and the last Provincial Board meeting. One new master and four new members were in attendance and received acknowledgement.

Central

Central Chapter meeting has been scheduled in Red Deer on April 22, 2008. Meeting will feature a short video and presentation on Arc Flash by Mr. Dave Hagen, incoming

Fort McMurray

Gord Stuve

Chapter meeting was held on March 18th with eighteen people in attendance. Provincial Membership chair Steve Warholik and Pubic member Sophie Schmalz attended the meeting with Sheri McLean from Provincial Office. Request was made from Steve to the contractors and associates in attendance to bring another person



A very successful St. Paddy's Day membership drive was held in March, with over 70 members and guests attending. Thank you to Noramco Wire and Cable for hosting the cocktails and to all members who donated door prizes. The lucky winners of two Oilers tickets each (donated by *Terry Sawatzky, Schneider Electric*) were Gary Tansem, Eecol Electric and Roger Leblanc, Heartland Electric.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21st. As this is election night we need a quorum. Please join me in showing your appreciation to the volunteers who worked hard on your behalf this past year by attending the meeting and listening to their reports. I would like to thank my Executive (Kelly Wilde, Kels Electric; DJ Coppens, Territorial Electric and Bob Maslanko, Lockerbie & Hole) and Directors (Frank Krupka, River City Electric Ltd; Ian Touw Schneider Electric; Art Thormann, Peco Investments Ltd.; Brad Quist, Western Electrical Management Ltd; Brian Alexander, Canem Systems; Scott Hutton, High Line Minuteman Electrical Constructors Ltd.; Randy Metcalf, Unified Systems Group; Tom Morin, PEC, MorQuest Electric Ltd.; Clem Gratton, PEC, C.M.N. Electrical Systems Ltd.; Art Lippert, PEC, PCL Intracon Power Inc.; Terry Sawatzky, Schneider Electric and Stan Misyk, The Inspections Group.) for all their support over the past two years.

Alberta Construction Safety Association Chair. Members will be informed of their responsibilities under the new changes to the Occupational Health & Safety Act.

with them to the next meeting. A lot of interest was expressed in the Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) program and a course being offered in Fort McMurray is being pursued (watch for flyers at the Associates counters).

A very informative and high impact presentation was delivered by Monty Major from Chemco on arc flash. A lot of changes are happening (Code Rules 2-304 and 2-306) within the electrical industry. CSA is working on a standard but key will be to educate the workforce. Contractors wanting to order the NFPA 70E manual can contact Fire Safety at 1-866-379-6668 or Annex Publications at 1-877-265-2827. A special thank you to Monty for bringing this to the Chapter's attention.

Lethbridge

Todd McKay



A very successful Chapter meeting was held on March 25th with nineteen people in attendance. Thank you to Provincial President DJ Coppens, newly appointed Public Member, Sophie Schmaltz and our members for attending. Guest speaker, Kelly Morris, provided an update on the enhanced master electrician program, which was

timely to the new masters receiving their certificates. Ken Kruger explained ECAA's new benefit plan where a single contractor gets the same benefit as a larger contractor (*the plan was based on 1000 lives*) and is available to contractor and associate members. A request was made for PEC courses to be offered in Lethbridge, and the Provincial Office is pursuing this.

ECAA participated in the Alberta Electric League Learning Expo the following day. Much interest was again expressed in the Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) program and one contractor signed up for membership. The Chapter looks forward to growing its membership and meeting on a quarterly basis.

Committee Reports

Apprenticeship

Clem Gratton, PEC
PAC Member

I have received the new Apprenticeship Course Outline, and it has been posted on the Trade secrets web site if you would like to view it. Over the summer and fall the exam bank was being reviewed and updated. From what I could tell it looked like some of these questions had not been looked at for a long time. I had been told that this task has been completed.



There are technical training spaces left for the last term starting at the end of April 2008, throughout the Province. There is space for almost every other term as well. Apprentices can check the Trade Secrets web site or call the toll free number that has been set up to take calls from apprentices looking for space 1-877-899-Seat (7328).

The meeting date for the annual PAC (Provincial Apprenticeship Committee) has been set and will be May 7th, 2008. The place has not been disclosed to me yet but I am assuming it will likely be the same place as last year, Twin Atria Building 4999 – 98 Avenue, Edmonton, AB. But don't hold me to that as I have not been officially notified of the location. Some of the topics will likely be:

Temporary Foreign Workers, which by the way there is a link off the Trade Secrets web site with a description of the Temporary Foreign Worker Qualification Program, which was issued February 2008.

TILMA issues as they pertain to workers between British Columbia and Alberta. Again on the Trade Secrets web site, you can view the discussion paper that was posted October of 2007. There is links also to email addresses if you have any comments.

Cathodic Protection review, Data was and may still be in the process of getting collected. Again on the Trade Secrets web site is a link for anyone that may be involved in this part of our trade to participate in the survey. Hopefully they will have the data compiled and presented to us at the PAC May 2008.

Field Heat Treatment Technicians are looking for Optional certification in Alberta.

Natural Gas Compression Technicians are also looking for optional certification in Alberta.

DND is still looking for Accreditation as well.

Employers, don't forget about the [Apprentice Job Creation Tax Credit](#) which is available through the Government of Canada. You can find the link to this program on the Trade Secrets web site in the *News and Announcements* section. Employees and Apprentices should be checking out these two incentives by the government of Canada, [Tradesperson's Tools Deduction](#) and [Apprenticeship Incentive Grant](#), especially at this time of year when we are all preparing our personal tax reports. For any information and registration forms about the grants, or scholarships or Apprenticeship in general have a look at the web site www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca. As you can tell from my notes above it is a valuable source of information for the tradesman and employer looking to stay on the top of their game.

Associate Liaison

Terry Sawatzky, Chair

An Associates meeting will be held in Edmonton at the 2008 Annual General Meeting Saturday May 31st (held at the West Edmonton Mall May 30th - June 1st). Look for your information in the mail or online at www.ecaa.ab.ca. A list of topics for the meeting will be forthcoming - canvassing members for their input. It will prove to be a great time to network, golf, dine & dance and shop 'til ya drop. Hope to see you there.

As members of the Associates Liason committee, one of our goals is to see all of our associates within the industry signed up as members of the ECAA. Steve Warholik is the provincial



membership chairman and is doing a fine job coercing, 'er recruiting, prospective members. The association is the voice of the electrical industry and if we look to change or influence the industry in any way you must participate.

In 2008 the Association has launched a new competitive and comprehensive employer / employee benefits plan open to all members (Associates and Contractors). If you are a small outfit you have to check this out - group benefit rates are within your grasp.

All members are encouraged to contact the offices of the ECAA to provide product presentations at the numerous chapter meetings throughout the province. Next time you are planning to head out of town look at the web site and see when the next meeting is in that territory and offer your services.

Communications

Tom Morin, PEC

ECAA's website continues to exceed our expectations with the number of hits being received - 125 to 250 per hour between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. The feedback button is



up and running - we can only make the website better if you provide us with feedback. The Master's section is being used extensively and we are pleased to report that pictures can again be uploaded so check out the Bali convention.

Electrical Technical Council - April 1st, 2008

Clem Gratton, PEC

Well the new Permit Regulation is now in effect as of today, and no this is not an April Fools Joke. I have been forwarded a draft copy of the Guidebook to be used by anyone who is issuing permits. Even though it is still based on a Permit Regulation that has most of what our industry considers serious safety issues, it does a pretty good job of describing the intent of who should be allowed to pull permits, even with the lack of specifics we were hoping to have in the Regulation, which are not there. This guidebook is supposed to be a living document, meaning that we can make suggestions and they may, if warranted, be adopted into changes on possibly a quarterly basis. I have sent my take on the draft version that tied in with our concerns we have had since we have seen the final version of the Permit Regulation. I am sure more discussion will take place on this at our next ETC meeting in early May.



There has been quite a bit of discussion with the exemption of Communications Systems from the latest Permit Regulation. It is generally felt by most of us in the Industry that if it warrants being in the Canadian Electrical Code book then it should require a permit, and be installed by electricians trained to adhere to the codes and practices of our trade. A letter has been drafted and sent to Ivan Moore, Assistant Deputy Minister on behalf of the ETC explaining our concerns.

The EIAA (Electrical Inspectors Association of Alberta) held their annual conference on February 8th and 9th. It was very well attended with some very good speakers dispersed throughout to offer topics of interest. Our own Kelly Morris presented an update on the Master Electrician Program; Rob Falconer of Enmax spoke on the latest Utility interfacing of Solar & Wind; very interesting progress made in this area; and Kevin Harrison of NAIT gave a presentation on Fire Alarm Systems. This year they also had manufacturers who set up some product tables with the latest gadgets which was also very informative. There were plenty of agenda items (Code issues

and interpretations) dealt with as well, with a few being taken to the AEICTC (Alberta Electrical Industry Codes & Technical Conference) June 11th, 2008. The AEICTC conference is being held in conjunction with the annual Safety Codes Council Conference again this year. This will take place at the Chateau Lake Louise this June 11th thru to the 13th, 2008. Conference Information and registrations can be found on the SCC web site (www.safetycodes.ab.ca).

Canadian Electrical Code Cycles are being changed from every 4 years to every 3 years. A task force was put together from

Fire Technical Council (FTC)

Keven Lefebvre, PEC

The last meeting of the Fire Technical Council was March 7, 2008, where I was elected Vice Chair. Some discussion was held around the issue of the new "Permit Regulation" and the information handbook which was presented to council. We are able to respond at any time as updates are expected to be quarterly.

The 2007 Alberta Fire Code has been in force since September 2, 2007 and the FTC has been issuing STANDATA to account for a few items, which were missed, in the new release of the Code. You may sign up on the Municipal Affairs website to receive the Standata by email as they are issued in any of the codes (Electrical, Plumbing, Elevators, Building, Fire, etc.).

Labour Relations

Brian Halina, Chair

There was a Joint Conference Committee meeting held on March 18th, 2008. This JCC meeting was attended by 10 ECAA Labour Committee members and 7 IBEW Local 424 representatives. There was a lot of good discussion about Unionized Electrical Industry issues Mark Douglas and Reg Richer from AIT attended the meeting to talk about what Apprenticeship and Industry Training is doing to help resolve the issues around the recent influx of immigrant workers to the Union dispatch hall. They are presently conducting an investigation with their counterparts in Ontario. The subject is on the agenda for the Provincial Apprenticeship Committee meeting in May.



Service Canada recently added the "Industrial Electrician" to their list of qualified occupations for the Expediated Labour Market Opinion (E-LMO) pilot project. This will allow contractors, who have pre-qualified, to bring Foreign Workers into Canada on short notice without going through the normal LMO process. Contractors who

the ETC to see if this could be kept to 4 year cycle. They met with the Vice President of the CSA Standards Development, who advised them that this decision has already been made and the codes and standards will be published every 3 years. The next code cycle will be January 2009.

Just In: A new Standata regarding Secondary Seals has been issued just today. I have received my notification through the update service which I subscribe to. For those who do not subscribe you can view the updates at the www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca web site.

The Council has been spending some time with the issue of Security systems that incorporate a Life Safety component (e.g. smoke detection/carbon monoxide detection). More of these types of security systems with fire detections are appearing daily. Fire Departments across Alberta are having a problem with many false alarm responses to these types of systems. The Council is looking into how these systems can be brought into some code and therefore brought up to a higher standard of initial installation (Electrical) with ongoing annual testing, not unlike what a "fire alarm system" requires today.

As always, if you have any questions with the fire code, or how it relates to the electrical trade, do not hesitate to call me @ (780) 970-0284.

think that they will need Foreign Workers in the next year should pre-qualify for an E-LMO Access Code number now. Call Pat for more information. The Union is polling Local Unions around United States at this time, looking for pockets of available workers.

The IBEW and the Unionized sector of ECAA have committed to a Gold Level Sponsorship of the Electrical Installations category of World Skills 2009 in Calgary. Apprentices are being mentored at the Training Centres for participation in this prestigious event.

The new Edmonton Training Centre will be turned over in May. The Training Centre will feature state of the art training space and equipment to meet training needs of IBEW journeyman and apprentice Electricians, Welders, Instrument Technicians and Equipment Operators for years to come. Local 424 paid for the construction of the building and the Electrical Industry Education Trust Fund of Alberta covered the cost of tenant improvements. A feature of the facility will be an 8KW Photovoltaics array and associated controls. This investment will serve to offset operations costs, but it will also be a teaching and research tool for IBEW members in the field of Solar Energy production in Northern Alberta.

Master's Update

Kelly Morris, Chair



It is appropriate that I write this update on April Fools day, as this is the day the new Permit Regulation is in force and effect. Despite the Queen's Printer Catalogue advertising it as 'coming soon', I have confirmed that Permit Issuing Agencies have been notified that this regulation is now law.

The ECAA is on record of requesting that adoption of this regulation be delayed on the basis that the stated process for the development of this regulation was not followed. We have yet to receive a response from Municipal Affairs.

Nonetheless, it is what it is. It is also appropriate that today I converse with a concerned Master Electrician from Westlock who sees an issue with permit issuing in that county with respect to manufactured homes and reloadable structures. This is nothing new to the ECAA with respect to concerns surrounding our safety system across the Province.

I fear the ECAA may have to be satisfied with being on record as voicing clear concerns with the Permit Regulation development process, and drawing attention to Municipal Affairs Safety Services personnel the disconnects and issues surrounding permit issuance, and work done outside the safety system in our Province.

Membership

Steve Warholik, Chair

The first three months of the year have been very busy for Membership. My wife and I joined ECAA on the convention to Vietnam, Bali and Hong Kong. I attended Chapter meetings in Lloydminster, Edmonton, Calgary and Fort McMurray and participated at the Industry Information evenings held in Calgary and Edmonton. I would like to thank Cathy White from Clarica for cold-calling contractors in these areas, explaining ECAA's new health plan, and inviting them to the Chapter meetings to hear about the benefits of belonging to this Association.

January meeting saw the Board approve six Regular and six Associate members into the Association. March welcomed an additional six Regular and four Associate members and we have three applications waiting for approval at the next Board meeting.

Anyone wanting membership information or would like me to call on a non-member contractor can reach me directly at 446-2350.

Municipal Affairs has demonstrated they have their own agenda, despite the valuable body of expertise and experience they have at their fingertips in the Technical Councils. We must respect their right to Govern as they see fit. As the voice of the electrical industry, ECAA members should be confident that the impact of the Safety Codes Act, and anticipated future complications with our safety system did not happen without our diligent efforts to provide feedback about the practical result, and the projected further erosion of Public Safety.

The proposed amendments to the Professional Electrical Contractor regulation remain with Government, and I'm optimistic about their future. The department of Employment and Immigration appear to still respect the value of credentials in our society. We are, however, at the mercy of Government process to allow this amendment to make its way through the halls of Government.

To restate and summarize the future for Master Electricians, prepare for Professional status as Certified or Registered Master Electricians, and if Municipal Affairs honours their commitment, a change to the Permit Regulation that will maintain the restriction of Electrical Permits to Certified Master Electricians (among the existing identified other persons) versus 'Master' electricians as we know them today.

Just to keep things interesting, TILMA (the Trade Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement) is a rapidly moving target on the RADAR screen now and this initiative may or may not have some impact on Master Electricians. Stay tuned.

Public Member

Sophie Schmaltz

I would like to extend my thanks to the Government for my appointment as Public Member. I would also like to thank the ECAA Provincial Board for their endorsement and warm welcome to the Board.

Since my appointment, January 15, 2008, I have attended Chapter meetings in Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray and Lethbridge. It is both interesting and informative to hear the issues, concerns, and successes presented from each Chapter and its Membership. It is also very encouraging to see the number of new contractor and associate members being welcomed into the ECAA. Over the course of the last two months, I've had opportunity to join in congratulating the new Masters and PECs, which were recognized at each of the Chapter meetings.

I believe in the strength and support the ECAA provides the Electrical Contractor, and the electrical industry overall, and look forward to proactively representing the public interest in the capacity of Public Member.

Board of Directors

Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta

Executive:

President:	DJ Coppens
Vice President:	Todd McKay
Treasurer:	Ron Mackenzie
Secretary:	Bob Maslanko, PEC
Past President:	Mike Brunner

Chapter Presidents & ECAA Directors:

Edmonton	Terry Milot
Calgary	Doug Fraser, PEC
Central	Darcy Teichroeb, PEC
North East	Jonny Nielsen, PEC
North West	Les Dzwonkiewicz, PEC
Lethbridge	Todd McKay
Medicine Hat	Glenn Pocsik
Fort McMurray	Gord Stuve

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South	Ken Rickbeil, PEC

Committees:

ACSA	Dave Hagen
ACA (South)	Al Miller
ACA (North)	Peter Rasmussen, PEC
Apprenticeship	Clem Gratton, PEC
Associate Liaison	Terry Sawatzky
CECA	Willard Kondro
Code	Clem Gratton, PEC
Communications	Tom Morin, PEC
Convention '08	DJ Coppens
Convention '09	Todd McKay
Labour Relations - Union	Brian Halina
Labour Relations – Non-Union	DJ Coppens
Legislation	
Master's	Kelly Morris, PEC
Membership	Steve Warholik
Nominations	Mike Brunner
	Willard Kondro
	Terry Milot
PEC	Lou Hiemer, PEC
Public Member	Sophie Schmaltz
Safety Codes Council:	
Fire	Keven Lefebvre, PEC
Electrical	Clem Gratton, PEC
Ways & Means	Ron Mackenzie

CONGRATULATIONS NEW PEC

GEORGE GIROUX, PEC #140

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

REGULAR

AAA Enterprises (Stony Plain)
Acceleration Technologies (Edmonton)
AWH Electric (Grande Prairie)
BARR-Tech Electrical (Edmonton)
BEC Electric (St. Albert)
Big Hill Electrical (Cochrane)
BJ's Electrical Installation (Edmonton)
Dawcoelectric (Quebec)
Hammell Electrical (Medicine Hat)
HVC Canada Constructors (Edmonton)
Q-2 Electrical Contractors (Red Deer)
Tri-Mak Electrical (High River)

ASSOCIATE

Altelec Enigneering (Edmonton)
Cochrane Stephenson (Edmonton)
Connect Architecture (Edmonton)
Electric Product Sales (Calgary)
ESPS Electrical Safety Programs (Calgary)
JDM Marketing (St. Albert)
QL Lighting Designs (Edmonton)
R3&A (Ontario)
Sharp Underground (Wainwright)
Total Integration (Edmonton)

The Contactor

The Contactor is the official publication of the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta. We welcome articles and paid advertisements.

Contact:

Sheri McLean, CAE, Executive Director
Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta
11235 - 120 Street
Edmonton, AB T5G 2X9
(780) 451-2412 or 1-800-252-9375
email: smclean @ ecaa.ab.ca
website: www.ecaa.ab.ca

website: www.ecaa.ab.ca

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