



# THE SPARK

## ECAA E-Newsletter

August 2, 2011

Issue 7

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### Quick Links

[www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)

### Calendar of Events

**Sept. 8th**

Calgary Chapter Meeting  
(*The Blackfoot Inn*)

**Sept. 14th**

Annual Bob Carson Classic  
(*Highlands Golf Course*)

**Sept. 19th**

Edmonton Chapter Meeting  
(*Derrick Golf & Winter Club*)

**Jan. 21st**

Edmonton Chapter President's Ball  
(*Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe*)

### Tradeshows

**Nov. 18th & 19th**

2011 Canada  
Career Week Fair  
(*Edmonton Expo Centre*)

<http://www.canadacareerfairedmonton.com/>

## AUGUST/2011

### Welcome to ECAA's E-Newsletter, The Spark!

This e-newsletter was created to keep members informed on the Association's activities and upcoming events in a timely manner.

### President's Message

O.K. if there is going to be a summer let's have it. I sure hope August brings us a bit better weather, but it could be a bitter sweet kind of request. So many of our projects have been slowed up with the consistent rain, that if August turns out to be dry then we will likely be doing both July and August's work in August. For my part on the ECAA front it has been quiet with not too many meetings or issues being dealt with. Sheri and I have been working on and nailing down specifics for the upcoming out-of-country convention which is taking place in the middle of March 2012. By the end of summer we should be able to announce the program and final resort location. Then shortly after the convention package will be sent out to give everyone plenty of time to plan ahead. Just make sure and keep middle of March open with a departure date right around March 12<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to register for your spot in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bob Carson Classic being held at the Highlands Golf Club, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. If you did not receive your registration package, log onto the ECAA website ([www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)) and you can find the link from there. Hope you are all having a chance to enjoy some of our very short summer and I look forward to seeing you in the near future.



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Gratton,  
PEC

Cheers.

### Industry News

**It's time to update your STANDATA binder.** Issue #23 - May 2011 updates include amended Safety Codes Act, Administrative Item Regulation and Permit Regulation; as well as changes to Legislation (Electrical Code Regulation, Section 2 - Electrical Systems Equipment); Canadian Electrical Code (Section 60 - Electrical Communication Systems); and a Variance, Canadian Electrical Code (Rule 2-024 - Re: Oil & Gas Industry Electrical Submersible Pumps). Contact Queens Printer ([www.qp.alberta.ca](http://www.qp.alberta.ca)).

After many years of dedication and commitment to the Alberta Public Service and to the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training system, **Shirley Dul** has decided to retire. Shirley is currently the Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Apprenticeship & Industry Training. ECAA extends best wishes to Shirley on her upcoming retirement.

**Edmonton Construction Association to celebrate 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary** October 29<sup>th</sup> - STARS looking to move date of construction industry "Building Magic in the Air" gala.

## Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## Social Networking



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## Board of Directors Update

Pueblo Bonito Rosé chosen as convention 2012 facility. Currently negotiating airfare -- registration forms available shortly.

**Next Board meeting: September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011.**

## Local Chapter Activity

**Calgary Chapter** -Electrical industry bids fond farewell to Dennis Holmes, Chief Electrical Inspector, City of Calgary. ECAA congratulates Dennis on his retirement.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 8th (*Blackfoot Inn*)

**Guest Speaker:** Keith Carson, WD With & Associates **Topic of Discussion:** *Cash Flow Problems? Our business makes dollars and sense.*

**Edmonton Chapter** - Bob Carson Classic Golf Tournament scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th at the Highlands Golf Course. Please contact ECAA if you wish to participate or if you have not received your confirmation.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, September 19th (*Derrick Golf & Winter Club*)

## Continuing Education

*Upcoming courses offered by ECAA.*

**September 10 & 11, 2011 - Design Build (ECAA Office, Edmonton).** Design-build has become a common place term in the engineering and construction industry in recent years and is prevalent for various building construction projects. The electrical contractor as a sub-trade is being asked to participate in the design build process. As a viable business opportunity, it is necessary for the electrical contractor to fully understand the concept of design build, organizational model, the laws and regulations pertaining to design build, design methods, estimating techniques and risk management. The course will help project managers, engineers, executive and owners of electrical contracting firms to address opportunities in design build and expand their market profitability.

**September 22 & 23, 2011 - Safety Principals (ECAA Office, Edmonton).** A well-developed safety program can reduce costs resulting from injury and property damage and in the hallmark of a quality electrical contracting firms. Follow the steps to develop and implement an effective safety program for small to medium sized electrical contracting firms. Second day is designed to help managers ensure construction supervisors fine-tune their safety skills by clearly understanding roles and responsibilities; presenting and delivering effective training to workers and maintaining high worksite safety standards; conducting effective site inspections and developing appropriate recommendations; understanding the steps to follow and processes involved when investigating accidents or incidents; understanding WCB legal responsibilities.

**October 21 & 22, 2011 - Accounting Principles (Location TBA, Calgary).** This course will introduce you to the terms and concepts of accounting and show you have to use them to attain goals and controls for future growth. You will learn practical skills to help you develop, interpret and use financial data, pin-point problem and profit areas, and focus your resources toward a successful electrical contracting business.

**October 28 & 29, 2011 - Project Management (Carriage House Inn, Calgary).** Increased competition is eroding profit margins across the board. To be successful in today's marketplace, electrical contractors need to work smarter - not harder. The Project Management course will teach you practical, hands-on skills to:

- identify and recover all costs to which you are entitled
- avoid paying for others' errors or omissions
- reduce project costs through effective purchasing and administration
- identify cost overruns - and take corrective action
- use effective record keeping systems to enhance project profitability

**November 18 & 19, 2011 - Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE) (Carriage House, Calgary).** For small contractors who are not ready to make the investment in a computerized estimating system. Designed to teach new contractors the fundamentals of preparing an electrical estimate using the Elemental Format hands-on. The course will address material take-off, pricing of materials, labouring of materials using the NECA Manual of Labour Units, labour costs, special overheads, general overheads and profit/contingencies.

**November 24 & 25, 2011 - Business & Public Relations (ECAA Office, Edmonton).** A series of five modules designed to give you essential and proven management concepts in the areas of managing: Credit & Collections, Business Promotion, Sales Management, Business Management and Human Resource Management. Each module will teach you hands-on management strategies to immediately begin improving the performance and profitability of your electrical contracting business.

**December 1 & 2, 2011 - Assessing & Finalizing The Tender (ECAA Office, Edmonton).** is course for the Professional Electrical Contractor courses covers organizing the estimate, finalizing the tender, and computer aid in estimating and finalizing the tender. Since the course is aimed at Professional Electrical Contractors, very little time is spent on basic take-offs. The course addresses calculations of various overheads, mark-up theories, labor factors, evaluating risk factors, and the like, all concerns that the active business manager meets up with every day. These three parts of this course are designed to create an awareness in the Professional Electrical Contractor of the various business principles involved in preparing his or her tenders.

Registration on-line at [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca) or through [ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca).

Available through ECAA. **ELECTRICAL SAFETY TRAINING SYSTEM (ESTS)** is a computer based, distance delivered program that recognizes Provincial & Federal Occupational Health & Safety Regulations. The program promotes a "Plan, Do, Check, Act" philosophy applying **CSA Z462**, based on **CSA Z1000 Occupational Health & Safety Management System Standard**. *Course is complimentary to all unionized electrical contractors and their employees that have a bargaining relationship with the IBEW Local 424.* Contact Christine [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca) to sign up.

## Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

**PEC's let your voice be heard!!** We are still looking for active participation on all the committee levels (but especially Practice Review and Registration) Contact [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca) if you are able to participate. Thank you.

If you are an ECAA Contractor or Associate member and would like us to help promote an industry or company event please contact us directly at 1-800-252-9375.

We value your feedback and it is important to us. Please submit any

comments to [ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca)



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