



THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

December 5, 2014

Issue 46

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www.ecaa.ab.ca

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Upcoming PEC Courses

Legal Implications
February 12th & 13th, 2015
(Edmonton)

Safety Principles
February 27th & 28th, 2015
(Calgary)

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No upcoming tradeshows

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DECEMBER/2014

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

Merry Christmas and welcome to winter. It's hard to believe its December already but time moves quickly when we are busy. Hopefully everyone is looking forward to enjoying some winter activities and holiday festivities.



Darcy Teichroeb,
PEC

The ECAA office, board members, and committee volunteers are busy with industry events and stakeholder networking trying to maintain our presence and build new roads for growth in the Electrical Industry. I have had the privilege to attend some very important events and meet with various stakeholders in the province. I attended the Liberal Leaders dinner in Edmonton at the end of October where Terry Milot and I were able to have conversations about the need for the prompt payment legislation with key members of Alberta's opposition party. I also attended a PEC marketing and strategies meeting on November 14 where I witnessed very passionate and driven PEC members working together to build the PEC awareness. I also attended the RAP and CTS Scholarship Banquet in Edmonton the night of November 14 where I spoke with many of our young future leaders in the trades. I was amazed at the motivation and confidence of these young people starting their careers in the trades. I attended a career day at the Red Deer College on November 19 where we were able to promote the ECAA and our PEC program to the students and the college program directors. On November 25 I participated in the Foreign Qualifications Forum in Edmonton where the process of building bridging strategies, to successfully use Foreign Qualified workers to fulfill the skilled labor shortages in the province, was discussed.

The Board of Directors held another meeting on December 4 prior to the Xmas open house at the ECAA office. The open house was once again very well attended and I enjoyed the opportunity to network and socialize with many of our members and industry colleagues.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy holiday season and wish you, your families and friends a safe Xmas and New Year.

Darcy Teichroeb, PEC, CME
Provincial President

Industry News

Find us on Facebook 

Dear COAA Members and friends: Nominations are now open for the 2015 COAA Awards, this year on the theme of leadership in Workforce Development. The nomination process is simple and the forms are brief; the deadline is 12:00 noon on Friday, December 12th, 2014. These awards recognize companies and organizations who have provided outstanding leadership to implement, improve and share industry best practices, which have led to measurable advances in workforce numbers and/or skills at the project, company or industry level. The awards are presented annually at the COAA Best Practices Conference in May, to celebrate industry leaders and to provide inspiring role models for COAA members and the industry at large. If you know of a firm or an individual who deserves such recognition by their peers, download the nomination forms at the following link: <http://www.coaa.ab.ca/information/COAAwards/NominationForms.aspx>

COAA Associate Members, COAA Supporting members as well as non-member companies may be nominated:

- * Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) firms
- * Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management (EPCM) firms
- * General contractors
- * Sub-contractors and specialty contractors
- * Labour organizations/ providers
- * Other industry associations
- * Extraordinary individuals within the above companies/ organizations

Any best practice, whether developed by COAA or by others, can form the basis of an award. As usual, COAA Principal Members are not eligible for these awards.

Volunteer required to sit on ACA Partnerships with Education committee representing ECAA. Please contact smclean@ecaa.ab.ca if you are interested. Thank you.

Objectives

- ▶ Assist ACA to champion technology, trades, and construction careers education in Alberta primary and secondary schools
- ▶ Assist ACA to champion seamless transitions for students to receive appropriate classroom training and / or work experience from secondary school to postsecondary training to construction employment, including pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training
- ▶ To provide provincial support for the Local Associations education initiatives.
- ▶ Foster stakeholder collaboration to support the previous three objectives

Terms of Reference

- ▶ Identify and promote successful industry / education partnerships
- ▶ Research, develop, and promote initiatives
- ▶ Liaise with education and other industry stakeholders
- ▶ Recommend for ACA Board approval ACA funding of specific initiatives
- ▶ Develop submissions in response to government initiatives and public discussions

A Master Electrician course has been scheduled in Grande Prairie. To register for this course click on the following link: http://www.nait.ca/course_eltr700.htm If you have any issues registering online please contact 780-471-6248. Learners are expected to bring a laptop, notebook, or IPAD. We will need a minimum of 24 learners enrolled for the course to proceed and can go to a maximum of 30.

Deadline for registration is December 15th, 2015.

Section Q01 - Jan 5 to 16, 2015

Mon to Fri, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Location - Grande Prairie Coca Cola Centre

Campus: On Site

Fee: \$2000

Diana McQueen, Minister of Municipal Affairs, appointed the following administrators pursuant to the Safety Codes Act: Trevor Brice, administrator for

fire protection; James Orr, administrator for buildings; Clarence Cormier, administrator for electrical systems; Danielle Paradis, administrator for certification and designation of safety codes officers, as well as administrator for certificates of competency for master electricians. ***ECAA congratulate each of these individuals and looks forward to working with them.***

From ACA Newsletter

Building Technical Council Proposed Change to Fire Fighting Response Code Clause. The Chair of the Building Technical Council has called for a Mail Ballot for support of: "NBC 2013 - proposal 894". As discussed at Building Technical Council this proposal falls under the administration of the Building Code and as such BTC should provide a public consultation response. The ACA as requested is seeking member's feedback. Supporting Document: [NBC 894 FTC review](#). If you have any comment or question on this change please contact Lee Phillips at LeeP@scottbuilders.com. He will need your comments by no later than December 9th.

WCB Announces Drop of Premium Rate. The WCB announced that due to increased employer performance they are offering a six cent drop in the average industry premium rate in 2015, to \$0.97 per \$100 of insurable earnings. The WCB will begin sharing individual rates with employers over the next few weeks, and wanted to ensure that employers have up-to-date information on what is happening in the workers' compensation system. Check out the [WCB website](#) for information on sector and industry rates, the factors that went in to establishing 2015 rates, and links to services that can help you improve your rate. If you are an employer, the WCB encourages you to sign up for Loss Control Reporting under [myWCB](#) to get a personalized rate statement in December. If you have any questions, please contact corporate.communications@wcb.ab.ca.

Oil Prices Loom Large on Alberta Governments 2nd Quarter Update. Alberta government's second quarter fiscal results show a strong first six months of the 2014-15 fiscal year; however, the on-going decline in oil prices suggests this is likely not to continue into the second half of the year. The surplus for 2014-15 is now forecast at \$933 million, down from \$1.1 billion forecast at budget. The revenue forecast has been updated to \$45.0 billion, \$637 million higher than originally estimated at budget. Total expense is now forecast at \$44.1 billion, up \$791 million from budget. The capital plan is providing \$7.3 billion for Alberta's infrastructure, a \$673 million increase from budget, primarily for additional school projects. The revised revenue forecast is based on \$75 US per barrel for the remainder of the fiscal year. For the first six months, WTI averaged \$100.08 but with the recent decline in energy prices is now forecast to average \$88.88 for the fiscal year. For further numbers and information please see the government press release [here](#).

Survey on Prompt Payment. A couple of weeks ago we asked you to fill out a survey on prompt payment and its effects on your business. After receiving a strong response so far we wanted to keep it open for a few weeks more to get as much response as possible. We appreciate the time spent to fill out this important information as we intend to use your feedback in shaping ACA recommendations on the issue. You can fill out the [survey here](#) and we will publish the results in a few weeks.

Have Your Say on Trade Definitions. The ACA along with its Local Construction Associations are reviewing requested changes to the Trade Definitions in December. Each year these definitions are reviewed and updates are published on a yearly basis. All member companies and trade associations may request changes to any or all trade definitions by providing their request in writing to the ACA or the Edmonton Construction Association (ECA). The request must include the change, reason for the change and the effect on other scopes. The Trade Definition committee will review and rule on all requests. If you want to put forward input please do so by January 1st 2015. The revised definitions will be posted March 1st as per what is stated in the Trade Definitions. You can put forward your ideas using the following [form](#). Please [click here](#) to see the existing

Trade Definitions.

Preparing Workers for Upcoming Changes to WHMIS. Health Canada, in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS), has released a new e-course entitled "WHMIS (After GHS) for Workers". The course will be offered free to the first 100,000 applicants. Please see the [CCOHS news release](#) for information about the course and go to their [website](#) for further details on how people can register.

For more information visit Alberta Construction Association at <http://albertaconstruction.net/>

REMINDER: ECAA 2015 Membership Renewal invoices are included with the December Contactor. Thank you for your continued support!

ECAA is now offering Airmiles Rewards with every credit card purchase. Call the office for more information or to put your collector number on file.

ECAA HOLIDAY HOURS: The ECAA office will be closed beginning 4:30 pm on December 23rd and reopen on Monday, January 5th, 2015 at 8:00 am. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season.

Board of Directors Update

Board of Directors meeting was held on Thursday, December 4th. In attendance: President Darcy Teichroeb, PEC; Mr. Terry Barnett; Mr. Darrell Castor; Mr. Rob Coleman, PEC; Mr. Brent Connell, PEC; Mrs. Jeanette DeBruin; Mr. Les Dzwonkiewicz, PEC; Mr. Brian Halina; Mr. Dennis Horrigan; Mr. Keven Lefebvre, PEC; Mr. Doug Miller; Mr. Ray Wery, PEC; Mr. Terry Milot; Mr. Eric Fadden, PEC; Mr. Clem Gratton, PEC; Mr. Chris Rauschnig, PEC; Mr. Tim Tarita; Mr. Hans Tiedemann; Mr. Bob Clarke; Mr. Steve Warholik and Mrs. Sheri McLean.

Correspondence included announcement of Mr. Andre Tremblay as ADM of Apprenticeship & Student Aid. ECAA congratulates Mr. Tremblay on his appointment. A letter to the Honorable Heather Klimchuk in appreciation of her efforts in regulating home inspectors. Acknowledgments from Ministers Bhullar, Scott, Bhardwaj, Kubinec, McQueen, Massey and Woo-Paw on congratulatory letters sent by President Teichroeb on their ministerial appointments. Notification from Mr. Ray Massey, Chair Alberta Apprenticeship & Industry Board on ECAA's RAP an AIT scholarship recipients. These individuals will be invited to the Awards Luncheon at Copper Point. New business included discussion on shortage of plumbing inspectors.

An updated was provided on Prompt Payment initiative by Mr. Milot. Members who received the ACA or MCA survey asked to **PLEASE** respond, as these statistics are required when proceeding with Government. October performance and financials were reviewed, as well as December Wood Gundy investment report. The 2015 budget was reviewed and approved. Two PEC and three membership applications were approved. Detailed chapter and committee reports are in the December issue of the Contactor.

On behalf of the ECAA Board and staff, wishing our members a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season!

Next Board meeting is Friday, January 23rd.

Have something to say?

ECAA is currently looking for guest writers for the Spark. Contact Darcy or Sheri.

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY: Next meeting **Thursday, January 8th** at the Best Western Port O'Call. Speaker & Topic TBA.

EDMONTON: Next chapter meeting **Monday, January 19th** at the Chateau Nova. **Guest Speaker:** Ted O'Toole, Gescan.

Join us for our **Edmonton Chapter President's Ball** on **Saturday, January 24th** at the Crowne Plaza. Contact ECAA for tickets.

FORT MCMURRAY: Next meeting **Tuesday, January 13th** at the Chateau Nova. **Guest Speaker & Topic TBA.**

LETHBRIDGE: Next meeting **Wednesday, January 14th**, at the Lethbridge Lodge. **Guest Speaker:** Marc Garner, ME, LJE with Lethbridge College; **Topic of Discussion:** Code Rule 4-004.

NORTH EAST: Next meeting **Tuesday, January 27th** at Spiros Restaurant. **Guest Speaker & Topic TBA.**

New Members

New Associate Members: Raytel Fleet Outfitters (Calgary); Teradi Consulting (Edmonton); Western Commercial Lighting (Edmonton)

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

CONGRATULATIONS New PEC's: Dean Ruptash, PEC #286; Frank Marhoffer, PEC #287.

From the Desk of PEC Education Committee Chair

With Christmas fast approaching I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. Shortly we will be into a new year and with a new year all PEC's must begin to focus on getting their mandatory professional development points. Former PEC education chair Mike Fleming has put a tremendous amount of effort into making the annual PD requirements as easy to understand as possible. As PEC's, if you have not set up a log-in to track and record your PD activities you should do so as soon as possible. Christine at the ECAA office has worked with Mike to make the process as user-friendly as possible.

One of the challenges in accessing PD opportunities, especially for those in more remote locations, is the lack of face to face PD opportunities. One way of getting some of the mandatory hours of training is through webinars, many of which are free and typically last 1-2 hours. Most of the webinars I have seen provide certificates of attendance which you can print off. In the new year I am planning on providing a list of available webinars and the presenters website information to those who need PD points. My plan is to include the list in each issue of the Spark.

One PD opportunity, occurring February 6th and 7th in Edmonton, is the annual Electrical Inspectors Association of Alberta (EIAA) annual technical conference. With a new code book arriving on the scene in 2015 the focus on the EIAA conference will be changes in the CEC.

The other main event already scheduled for 2015 is the annual PEC Training Day, this year being held at Copper Point resort in Invermere, BC on May 22nd. Registration for training day is available on the ECAA website and you can always call the office for further details.

Yours in education.
Larry Cantelo, PEC
PEC Education Committee Chair

Continuing Education

Registrations are being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2014 form on ECAA website under PEC section and in Calendar of Events: Contact Christine

Hryniw (chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca) to register or for more information on the program.

[2014 - 2015 PEC COURSE REGISTRATION FORM](#)

Legal Implications, February 12th & 13th, 2015 (Edmonton) This course will increase your awareness and understanding of legal issues and pitfalls common to electrical contractors. The course will also address incorporation, income tax and GST, construction contracts, subcontracts and liability thereunder as well as how to ensure payment for your work - including remedies available under The Builders' Lien Act.

Safety Principles, February 27th & 28th, 2015 (Calgary)

A well developed safety program can reduce costs resulting from injury and property damage, and is the hallmark of a quality electrical contracting firm.. The first day of the course shows you each step to develop and implement an effective safety program for your small to medium sized electrical contracting firm. The next day is designed to help managers ensure construction supervisors fine-tune their safety skills by:

- clearly understanding what their safety roles and responsibilities are
- presenting and delivering effective training to workers and maintaining high worksite safety standards
- conducting effective site inspections - and developing appropriate recommendations

- investigating - the steps to follow and processes involved

ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE THROUGH ECAA.

FIRST LEVEL SUPERVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM

This course offers the critical basic skills and concepts needed to supervise a crew in the residential, institutional, commercial, industrial and civil construction sectors. For more information click on the following link [First Level Supervisor Training Program](#) . Course is complimentary to all unionized electrical contractors and their employees that have a bargaining relationship with the IBEW Local 424. **Course cost is \$400 and to enroll contact Christine chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca**

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) to sign up.

ON-LINE ETHICS COURSE. This course is designed for the Certified Master Electrician (CME) that desires to maintain that designation and for any Registered Master Electrician (RME) or Master electrician that desires to become a CME Information at www.ecaa.ab.ca (Ethics course).

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 smclean@ecaa.ab.ca.

The next issue of The Spark will be emailed Friday, January 9th, 2015.



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