



**ECAA**

Electrical Contractors  
Association of Alberta

# THE SPARK

ECAA NEWSLETTER

December 7th, 2018

Issue 94

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

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

### President's Message

Greetings to everyone,

This winter has started out in the most peculiar way. We in the north are used to lots of snow and blustery weather conditions by now. This has not been the case so far, with only a few nasty storms, but with a lot of rain/ice mix. It's kind of like Mother Nature can't figure out which direction she's going. Every day like this though, brings us one day closer to spring.



On November 19th, I had the fortune to attend the RAP/CTS Scholarship Awards Celebration at the Delta Hotel in Edmonton. Chris Rauschning and I worked together to "man" the ECAA booth, and had the opportunity to chat with some of our great young apprentices from all trades. The future holds great promise with young people such as these leading the charge into the future.

The Calgary Chapter held its 1st Annual Christmas Social on November 24th, at the beautiful Fairmont Palliser Hotel. This was a spectacular event hosted by Mr. Andrew McGuire and his lovely wife Kristina. This sold out event was the perfect opportunity for friends and acquaintances alike to gather for an evening filled with great food and great conversation. It was my pleasure to attend. I hope this is the beginning of a fine tradition.

The ECAA Annual Christmas Open House was held on December 6th at the ECAA office in Edmonton following our Provincial Board Meeting. This event was a great success and I had a wonderful time networking with the

[Code Seminar Registration Form](#)

**MEETINGS**

January 9th, 2019

LETHBRIDGE CHAPTER

January 10th, 2019

CALGARY CHAPTER

January 21st, 2019

EDMONTON CHAPTER

January 24th, 2019

FORT McMURRAY CHAPTER

**TRAINING**

Arc Flash & Shock 1 Day Low Voltage Training

January 9th, 2019

Lethbridge Lodge

January 22nd, 2019

ECAA Provincial Office

Edmonton

February 21st, 2019

Grande Prairie

**Managing Change**

8:30 am - 10:30 am

January 15th, 2019

ECAA Provincial Office

Edmonton

**SOCIALS**

**Edmonton Chapter**

**President's Ball**

January 19th, 2019

Chateau Lacombe Hotel

Hosted by:

Edmonton Chapter President

Jay & Amy Kuystermans

[ECAA 2018-2019 Board of Directors](#)

amazing people connected to the ECAA. Thank you to everyone that donated to the Christmas Bureau of Edmonton and the Edmonton Food Bank. We were able to donate \$520 to the Christmas Bureau and fill two large boxes of food donations for the Food Bank.

The time has come to wish each and every one of you a very Joyous Christmas Season. It is my wish that you all get to fully enjoy everything that the season has to offer. Enjoy family, eat lots, and get some well-deserved rest.

Peace be to all of you

Until next time, be safe and God bless

Tim Tarita,  
ECAA Provincial President

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**Electrical Safety Training Update**

**1-Day Low Voltage Arc Flash and Shock Training Course Overview Based on CSA Z462-2018**

**COURSE DATES:**

**January 9th, 2019 (LETHBRIDGE)**

REGISTER:

<http://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/1-day-low-voltage-arc-flash-and-shock-training-course-lethbridge/>

**January 22nd, 2019 (EDMONTON)**

REGISTER: <http://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/1-day-low-voltage-arc-flash-and-shock-training-course-edmonton-2/>

**February 21st, 2019 (GRANDE PRAIRIE)**

REGISTER: <http://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/1-day-low-voltage-arc-flash-and-shock-training-course-grandeprairie/>

**For more information contact the ECAA Provincial Office 1-800-252-9375.**

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**Industry News**

***Thank you to all of our members and guests that attended our Christmas Open House.*** With over 100 guests in attendance it was a very successful event.

**Invoices, Convention & Training Day Registrations** will be emailed prior to the Christmas break. Thank you for your continued membership and support. ECAA Provincial office will be closed December 24th and re-open January 2nd, 2019.

Click on the above link to meet our Provincial Board of Directors

### Trade shows

#### CALGARY CAREER FAIRS

Lord Beaverbrook  
High School  
February 20th, 2019

Father Lacombe  
High School  
March 13th, 2019

James Fowler  
High School  
April 3rd, 2019

If you are able to volunteer contact [Doug Miller](#)

### Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

#### ECAA is Social

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**ECAA Convention & Training Day** will be held May 31st - June 2nd, 2019 at the Jasper Park Lodge. **On behalf of Provincial President Tim Tarita thank you to the following sponsors: Federated Insurance (Diamond) & AON Risk Solutions (Gold).** Did you know that ECAA subsidizes \$250 per person in registration costs to ensure quorum at our AGM's? Your generous sponsorship donations help make this possible. [Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

**ECAA Breakfast Club** will be hosting **Managing Change** on January 15th from 8:30 - 10:30 am at the ECAA Provincial Office. For more information or to register contact the ECAA office.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: Ground Plate Electrical Installation Update** as of November 14th, 2018. Electrical Ground Electrodes (Plates/Rods). It has come to the attention of the City of Edmonton that presently there are electrical ground electrodes being installed in the City of Edmonton which do not comply with Canadian Electrical Code Rule 10-700 and CSA Standard C22.2 No. 41 (Protection against corrosion). This is a mandatory requirement.

The City of Edmonton has initiated a formal inquiry to Alberta Municipal Affairs & Safety Codes Council to confirm the intent of CE Code Rule 10-700. It is understood that this is a province-wide issue.

In the meantime, installations of this nature shall utilize one of the available listed products designed for this purpose as per CE - Code Rule 10-700.

**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: All non-certified products identified through the course of inspection will be flagged deficient, requiring installation of a certified product.**

For any questions and/or inquiries related to this notice, please contact [gerry.wiles@edmonton.ca](mailto:gerry.wiles@edmonton.ca)

[Free access to the code online lowers cost for the building industry.](#) Improving the energy efficiency of buildings is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce our carbon footprint. At the same time, providing free codes to the construction industry has been linked to strong gains in productivity and the economy in other countries. That's why the [National Research Council of Canada](#) and [Natural Resources Canada](#) are providing Canadians with free online access to the 2017 edition of the National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings (NECB 2017).

The NECB 2017 builds on Canada's commitment to work closely with the provinces and territories on the [Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change](#) to meet emissions reduction targets, grow the economy, and build resilience to a changing climate. Provinces and territories may adopt the [National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings](#), or adapt it to create a regulation that meets their specific regional needs.

This pilot project marks the first time that a national building code has been made freely accessible, and will provide the Government of Canada with the opportunity to evaluate the benefits of moving towards such a model.

Through this process, the hope is to leverage the information gathered, and compare the results to the experiences of other countries. For example, providing free codes to the construction industry in Australia has been linked to strong gains in productivity and the economy. The NECB 2017 is published by the National Research Council and developed by the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes. Users can access the new edition online at [CodesCanada.ca](http://CodesCanada.ca)

**2018 WCB Update. Employers Are You on the Right Track?** Under the Workers' Compensation Act employers have a number of responsibilities when a work-related injury/illness occurs. These responsibilities include: recording and reporting any worker entitlement and/or return-to-work issues. **How can you know for sure if you are meeting your legislative requirements, including the new obligation to reinstate?** WCB's disability management self-assessment checklist helps you confirm if you meet the minimum requirements.

Completing the checklist helps you:

- improve your overall injury management process.
- identify any shortcomings in meeting legislated requirements.
- identify potential gaps in managing return to work to help you minimize the impact of a worker's injury/illness.

Head to our website to learn more and to access the [self-assessment checklist](#).

**Changes to the employer and worker reports of injury forms.** New legislation introduced in September makes it even more important for all Alberta employers and their workers to work together to have a solid return-to-work plan in place. The updated forms now ask for acknowledgement of responsibility and current status of the following:

- returning an injured worker to the same job or an alternative job after a workplace accident.
- offering and participating in modified work.
- employer-provided health benefits following an accident/injury (and any associated premiums paid by the employer and/or worker).

Injury reporting can be done online through a myWCB account. **If you use paper versions, please recycle existing copies and download updated versions found in the [Resources section](#) of our website.**

**Does the new obligation to reinstate legislation apply to your workers?** Under the new obligation to reinstate (OTR) legislation, if your injured worker has been continuously employed with your company for 12+ months, it's now assumed that the injured worker will go back to work with you. However, there are [some exceptions](#) (on page 6, question 10), including seasonal or contract employment that is subject to temporary lay-offs. Workers who have been with their employers less than a year are exempt from this new piece of legislation. An employer's obligation to reinstate doesn't affect the services and benefits workers are entitled to—we will always help them recover and return safely to work after a workplace

injury. Under the new legislation, it's important for both [employers](#) and their [workers](#) to know their obligations after a workplace injury and work together to achieve a successful return to work.

For more information on this year's legislation changes, including links to the new and updated policies: <https://www.wcb.ab.ca/about-wcb/2018-updates>

***Congratulations on your Retirement!*** After 38 years in business Doug and Dave have retired from Co-Par Electric. Wishing you the best of luck on your future endeavors.

***Our condolences to the family of Daniel Gravel;*** a former principal at MCL Power. Daniel's memorial service will be held at 1:00 pm on Monday, December 10th at the Royal Canadian Legion (14339-50th Street NW, Edmonton, AB) In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alberta Cancer Foundation.

### **Congratulations to the 2018 CEA recipients of Electrical Business magazine's 2018 Canadian Electrical Awards (CEA)**

\* Johnson Street Bridge, Victoria, B.C. Winner in the Special category (over \$1 million). Western Pacific Enterprises (WPE) served as electrical contractor.

\* Jim Pollard, owner, Unlimited PPE, Stoney Creek, Ont. Winner in the Electrical Safety Champion category.

"The passion with which Jim and WPE approach their work makes them truly worthy recipients of these awards," says Anthony Capkun, publisher of ElectricalBusiness. "Congratulations!"

CEA is the first and only program of its kind to recognize electrical professionals for excellence in their work across Canada, with conspicuous attention paid to the health and safety of electrical workers. More information about the winners will be featured in the December 2018 edition of Electrical Business.

Save the date **EIAA (Electrical Inspectors Association of Alberta) Technical Conference** February 1st & 2nd, 2019 at the Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Center. For more information visit <https://www.eiaa.ca/component/rseventspro/event/11-2019-eiaa-annual-technical-conference>

### **PEC Update - Mentorship Program**

*A message from Eric Fadden, PEC*

Recently the PEC Marketing Committee met and one of the topics of concern discussed was the availability of mentors across the province.

As a new PEC and contractor starting out, many have shared experiences of their struggles in learning some of the aspects of running an electrical contracting business. When we go through the day to day operations of our own businesses, we may be taking a lot of the things we regularly do for granted as being common knowledge. It is safe to say that all of us had to

go through many instances of trial and error to gain knowledge of some of the most basic functions we engage in as electrical contractors.

In my own experience, I can look back at many one on one conversations with other experienced contractors that I met through the ECAA that helped me get through a variety of issues over the years. The experience shared helped me sort out anything from accounting or tax hints, material sourcing, employee issues, developing my own pricing strategy when dealing with clients or deciding which direction of practice I would focus on in the field. As I look back, I am ever grateful to these people who took a few minutes of their time to share their experiences with me.

On the PEC web page there are guidelines on what can be expected of a mentor under the Become a PEC drop down menu under the Course Outline selection <http://pecprogram.ca/pec-program-courses/>. Please consider these suggestions but do not let them prevent you from stepping forward to making yourself available. Each relationship is going to be governed by the time the mentor and mentee are willing to contribute. Maybe face to face isn't possible and it all may come down to a phone call or 2 per month. Each relationship will be unique to the participants with the focus mainly being one who has experience sharing with one who is new to contracting.

One of our mottos within the ECAA has been to 'Be Connected' and by engaging in mentorship we are doing exactly that. **Please take a minute to [get back to us](#) and simply tell us you are willing to make yourself available as a mentor.** Our goal is to have a pool of people willing to step forward and we can make the connection when the opportunity arises if it fits with both parties. We are not asking to share your corporate secrets or strategies that you are not comfortable with, just to take some time to share experiences with someone new to the industry.

Regards,

Eric Fadden, PEC

### **New Members**

Welcome new members approved at the last Board of Directors meeting:

#### **Contractors:**

Maax Electrical Services Inc. (Airdrie)

Morlock Hicks Electric Ltd. (Lamont)

Panterra MTE Solutions Inc. (Edmonton)

#### **Associates:**

Bastion Safety Solutions (Beaumont)

John Brown & Associates (Calgary)

L.P. Royer Inc. (Calgary)

Lumican (Edmonton)

Wajax (Calgary)

Wajax (Edmonton)

**Journey Person Associates:**

William Harrison (Grande Cache)

Dan Wehinger (Edmonton)

**Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News**

Welcome new PEC's approved at the last Board of Directors meeting.

**Chris McIntyre, PEC; Ashton Geary, PEC and Matthew Savitsky, PEC**

***Congratulations!***

**Local Chapter Activity**

**CALGARY:** Next meeting **Thursday, January 10th** Best Western Port O'Call Hotel.

**Pre-Meeting Presentation at 5:00 pm: Barry Lawrence, Bastion Safety**

**Topic:** Killing You Softly - An Introduction to Occupational Hygiene

**Chapter Meeting & Dinner 6:00 pm**

**Guest Speaker: TBA**

**Meeting Sponsor: Schneider Electric, Rob Little**

***On behalf of Calgary Chapter President Andrew McGuire;*** thank you to all of the members and guests that attended the first annual Calgary Chapter Christmas Gala. The sold out gala was a huge success and we thank everyone that came out and supported this event.

**EDMONTON:** Next Meeting **Monday, January 21st**, Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Center.

**Pre-Meeting Presentation 5:00 pm: Epcor, City of Edmonton and Inspections Group**

**Guest Speaker: Sunlife Insurance and Career Next Generation**

**Meeting Sponsor: Sunlife Insurance**

***Join us for the Edmonton Chapter President's Ball on Saturday, January 19th, 2019.*** The annual ball is hosted by Edmonton Chapter President Jay & Amy Kuystermans. Dinner and Dance featuring Musical Guests: The Scoundrels. Click on the following link to purchase your tickets: <http://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/edmonton-chapter-presidents-ball-2/>

**FORT McMURRAY:** NEW Meeting Date: Next meeting is **Thursday, January 24th**, Best Western Plus Sawridge & Suites 6:00 pm.

**Guest Speaker:** Barry Lawrence, Bastion Safety

**Topic:** Killing You Softly - An Introduction to Occupational Hygiene  
**Meeting Sponsor:** TBA

**LETHBRIDGE:** Next meeting is **Wednesday, January 9th**, Lethbridge Lodge

**Guest Speaker:** Terry Becker, Danatec Educational Services  
**Topic:** CSA Z462 2018 & Electrical Safety Program for Contractors  
**Meeting Sponsor:** TBA

**1 Day Low Voltage Arc Flash & Shock Training Session** January 9th at the Lethbridge Lodge ECAA Member Cost \$350. **Register:** <http://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/1-day-low-voltage-arc-flash-and-shock-training-course-lethbridge/>

## Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) Courses

### [2019 PEC Course Schedule and Registration](#)

**Legal Implications Thursday, February 7th & Friday, February 8th, 2019 (Instructors:**

**Trevor Goulet, Michael Bokhaut and Matthew Kachur)**  
**(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.

**Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE) Thursday, February 21st & 22nd, 2019 (EDMONTON)**

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.

**Safety Principles Thursday, February 28th & Friday, March 1st, 2019 (Instructor: Barry Lawrence) (CALGARY)** Legislation recognizes a PEC as an "Employer". This course lays the groundwork to develop a successful safety program, and mitigate additional employer risk. We'll learn to identify common gaps found in safety systems, simple ways to interpret legislation, and many other valuable tools including: OH&S Obligations (Employer & Worker); Employee Competency; WCB Expectations; Claims Management Strategies; CSA Z463 & Z462.

**\*\*Reminder all PEC's retaking courses 12 APD points apply. Reduced course rate of \$60 per 2 day course; \$90 3 day course.**

## Online Training

**ESTS 2018 Update Available.** The newest version of our 2018 compliant ESTS course was developed for workers that perform energized electrical work. The overall course content was developed using industry accepted best practice standards as the underpinning in support of meeting Provincial or Federal regulatory due diligence for arc flash and shock.

**ONLINE TRAINING -- ECAA MEMBER DISCOUNT AVAILABLE!**  
use Promo Code ECAA2018!

### E-Learning Courses Available:

- ESTS Electrical Worker Canada 2018
- ESTS Electrical Worker USA
- ESTS Non-Electrical Worker Canada and USA
- Bear Awareness Online Training
- Confined Space Pre-Entry Online Training
- Fire Safety Awareness
- Ground Disturbance Online Training - Supervisory 3.0
- H2S Awareness Online Training 2.0
- Hazard Awareness Online Training 2.0
- TDG Online Training 3.0
- WHMIS 2015 Online Training
- Defensive Driving - 3 Demerit Reduction Online Training (Alberta Only)
- Defensive Driving Condensed Online Training (CDN Version)
- Fatigue Management for Senior Administrators and Supervisors Online Training
- Fatigue Management: Driving Drowsy - Taking Responsibility Online Training
- Professional Drive Improvement Course Online Training - 3 Demerit Reduction (Alberta Only)

**FIRST LEVEL SUPERVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM \*\*5 Gold Seal Credits** 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](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)

**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.ecaatraining.com](http://www.ecaatraining.com) (Ethics course).

## Alberta Construction Association Update

### Input Requested on Proposed Code Changes

Public review to proposed changes to Codes Canada publications is now open.

If these proposed changes are approved they will be published in the 2020 National Codes. Members can provide formal comments to National Research Council before January 4, 2019.

**Please note the following changes in particular:**

*Air leakage*

**Proposed Change 1335**

As of the 2020 code there will be a performance expectation for air barrier, air leakage from buildings. QUANTIFIED. This is new for 2020.

*Encapsulated Mass Timbers*

**9 provisions starting with Proposed Change 1024**

This is new addition and it deals with large span wood members - sometimes called CLT or cross laminated timber.

*Agricultural Occupancy*

**Proposed Change 1015**

Re-definition of Agricultural Occupancy - this is likely in reference to Cannabis producers calling their facilities Agricultural, where they are actually low - medium - or high hazard Industrial.

The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes invites Code users and stakeholders to review the following publications:

National Building Code of Canada

[Proposed changes by subject](#)

[Proposed changes by Code Provision](#)

National Fire Code of Canada

[Proposed changes by subject](#)

[Proposed changes by Code Provision](#)

National Plumbing Code of Canada

[Proposed changes by subject](#)

[Proposed changes by Code Provision](#)

Please note there are no proposed changes for the National Energy Code for Buildings.

How to submit comments

Before submitting comments please read:

[Guidelines](#) for writing comments

[Instructions](#) for submitting comments

[Proposed changes](#)

To comment on a proposed change click the 'Submit Comment' link located at the beginning of each proposed change to access the online comment form. You must use a separate Comment Form for each proposed change.

**Only online comment forms will be accepted.**

### Contact Us

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 its important to us. Please submit any comments to [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca)

**The next issue of The Spark will be emailed on January 4th, 2018.**



# ECAA

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