



# THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

May 4, 2012

Issue 16

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## Quick Links

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

## Calendar of Events

**May 9th, 2012**  
CE Code Seminar &  
Central Chapter Meeting  
(Black Knight Inn, Red Deer)

**MAY/2012**

### 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

All right, calling on all Contractors, PEC's, CME's, RME's and Associates. At the end of this month, specifically May 25th and May 26th , 2012, we will be having our Annual General Meeting "AGM" and need you all in attendance. We will be celebrating the 50th year of our Association's existence, and the finalized plans are all very exciting. All the registration information can be found on our web site [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca). There is probably a link with this Spark newsletter. Remember we need your ideas as this Board and next year's Board will be focussing on the needs of the members. The members that show up and express their thoughts are the ones that are heard.



Clem Gratton,  
PEC

This past year was a very interesting year serving as your President. I have to say that one of the questions that was asked of me more often than not was what is happening with the Masters program. I know that many articles and memos have been sent to our membership through this Spark E-newsletter as well as the Contactor. Many years ago our members had mandated the ECAA to make sure the Masters would not be abandoned by our Government. It was very close and there have been many ups and downs, but we have and are still working with the government trying to forge a new direction. We are where we are now because of the very hard work and a vigilant watch by your ECAA Board and Committees. We do have to celebrate their successes. The Masters has been retained in the Regulations, and now under the oversight by Safety Codes Council another ECAA vision is coming to fruition - mandatory code updates every code cycle to be able to keep your Masters valid. The Safety Codes Council is also striking up the Masters Advisory Committee, which will be a subcommittee of the Electrical Technical Council. It will oversee course content, exam review/updating, and advising the ETC on the Master's Program status. The ECAA has been requested to forward two names from our membership to serve on the Masters Advisory Committee. We will be able to keep our vigilant watch and also have a chance to report back to our members. Note that we only have the contact information for our CME/RME's who have maintained their membership. We will be communicating with these members to find out what is important and what the Masters Advisory Committee should be advised about, as well as advising these

**May 10th, 2012**  
Calgary Chapter AGM &  
Elections  
(Hotel Blackfoot)

**May 14th, 2012**  
Edmonton Chapter AGM &  
Elections  
(Chateau Lois)

**June 5th, 2012**  
CE Code Seminar  
(Hotel Blackfoot, Calgary)

**June 6th, 2012**  
CE Code Seminar &  
Lethbridge Chapter  
Meeting  
(Lethbridge Lodge)

**June 7th, 2012**  
CE Code Seminar  
Medicine Hat Chapter  
Meeting  
(Best Western)

**June 12th, 2012**  
CE Code Seminar  
(Chateau Nova,  
Edmonton)

### Tradeshows

**Provincial & National  
Skills**  
May 10th & 11th -  
14th & 15th  
(Edmonton)

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members with what is happening. The Safety Codes Council has the contact information for the Masters who only renew their Masters with the SCC, and I do not think they will have time or resources to engage with the Masters. So let us celebrate some of our victories that we have achieved with the Masters program, and trust me when I say, we will maintain our vigilance on your behalf and continue forging on with the changes as they come.

I again had the privilege of attending the Apprenticeship Board Awards ceremony, always a great event. I took part in awarding the Top Electrician Apprentice, Mr. Ryan Smith, a wonderful young man who works for Chown Electric (Edson). Congratulations again Ryan.

I also manned our ECAA booth at the recent RCIC (Residential Construction Industry Conference). This occurred on April 24th and 25th and is truly a great event. The educational opportunities available at this Construction Conference offer great topics of interest to all who work in Residential Construction. We had a great chance to get the ECAA and PEC name out to the Builder/Contractors that attended. Thanks to all who also worked the booth with me, your participation was greatly appreciated.

### Getting To Know Your Executive

*We thought our readers would like to know more about the volunteers who make up the ECAA Board of Directors so have added this feature into the Spark.*

**Getting to know your Calgary Chapter President:** Scott White, PEC

**Company:** Western Electrical Management Ltd.

**Family Members:** 2

**When and how did you start in the industry:** In 1992 I found an ad in the newspaper that Western was looking for starters and the rest is history.

**Favorite hobbies:** Skiing

**Favorite TV show:** Game of Thrones

**Favourite Sports Team:** Calgary Flames

**Most memorable vacation:** Vancouver Island

**Favorite ECAA memory:** 49th AGM... Ron Mackenzie princess moment!

**Best part of ECAA is:** The people

**Getting to know your North East Chapter President:** Terry Barnett

**Company:** K&L Electric Inc.

**Family Members:** Wife Donna

**When and how did you start in the industry:** 1983. I liked working with my hands and seeing what I could make work with power.

**Favorite hobbies:** Gofling and Curling

**Favorite TV show:** News

**Favourite Sports Team:** Oilers, Eskies

**Most memorable vacation:** Disneyland with all of my nieces and nephews.

**Affiliations with other associations:** Lloydminster Construction Association

**Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices:** Watch, listen and learn.

**Favorite ECAA memory:** Snowed in at 2011 AGM; you get to know everyone a little more.

**Best part of ECAA is:** The long term friendships you get with some of the members.

## Industry News

ECAA participant at **Provincial & National Skills Competitions**. Come join us at ECAA's booth and encourage our electrical competitors.

**Help us Keep ECAA's Tool Box Full!** Perry Schmaltz has initiated giving students at Career Shows a hands on experience of stripping and splicing wire. We are looking for 14/2 loomex wire and marrettes before the **Skills Canada Competitions taking place May 10th - 15th**. If you are able to help please contact the ECAA office. Thank you in advance!

**Looking for the 2012 Canadian Electrical Code on CD?** This has been moved to a pdf format and is available for purchase through [www.shopcsa.ca](http://www.shopcsa.ca). This product contains an interactive CE 2012 Code as well as 13 electronic calculator tools for a price of \$325. Calculators only are available for a cost of \$40.

**Code update training for the 22nd edition of the CEC and 4th edition of Oil & Gas** will be mandatory requirement of certification for all Electrical Safety Code Officers (SCO's) Group A, to be completed within one year of the code in force. Code update training for the 4th edition of the Electrical Utility Code will be mandatory for SCO's Group B certification.

**Reminder:** ECAA Code Seminar has been recognized by Safety Codes Council as approved training for Safety Codes Officers and Master Electricians. Visit [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca) for a complete registration form.

**ECAA Congratulates Top Electrical Apprentice, Ryan Smith** (Chown Electrical, Edson) at the recent Apprenticeship & Industry Training award ceremonies.

**Industry Training Scholarships** The Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) Scholarships are now available! The ECAA offers three scholarships annually for individuals pursuing further education in the construction trades through the AIT program. Eligibility details and an electronic version of the application form can be found at [www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca](http://www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca) **Application deadline June 29, 2012.** *The Apprenticeship and Industry Training Scholarships are designed to recognize the excellence of Alberta apprentices and trainees and to encourage them to continue and complete their apprenticeship or occupational training -* [www.alis.alberta.ca/scholarships](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/scholarships)

**Do you have apprentices prepping to write the Red Seal Exam?** CSA has a free trial downloadable iPhone app available to students consisting of 200 questions selected from the full CSA practice exam tool to test your knowledge.

**Graybar Canada celebrates 15 years of distributing communications and data products.** Watch for in-branch events, training, and product promotions that will be happening throughout the year in partnership with supporting vendors. For more information visit [www.graybarcanada.com/CD15](http://www.graybarcanada.com/CD15)

**Save the Date** Building Magic in the Air STARS Gala November 24, 2012, at the Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe. Visit [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca) for a complete sponsorship package and save the date card or to reserve tickets and sponsorship opportunities contact [magicgala@stars.ca](mailto:magicgala@stars.ca) If there is anyone you know of in the electrical industry that has been flown by STARS and would like to share their story please contact Sabrina Ali at [magicgala@stars.ca](mailto:magicgala@stars.ca)

### Board of Directors Update

*Board of Directors Update from April 26th, 2012.*

**Next Meeting:** May 27, 2012.

2011 Review Engagement report and annual audit completed. Questions? Come to Agm.

ECAA Board participating in **Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters Association's (CME) Deputy Minister's Dinner**. Thank you to CME for including us.

Board raised concerns with members providing requested information to Alberta Construction Association **Labour Burden Survey**. Why? Listen to discussion at Annual General Meeting.

**Electrical Technical Council.** Enhanced New Home Warranty Program being considered by Cabinet.

ETC matrix policy changed to include a representative for the **Industry Segment of Electrical for Residential Construction, congratulations to Mr. Mike Gratton** representing the Alberta Home Builder's Association.

OBIEC still being reviewed.

**Annual Reports will be posted on ECAA website [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca).** Want a hard copy for pick up at AGM or mailed to you? Contact ECAA Provincial Office to order one now (780.451.2412 or toll free 1.800.252.9375)

**WE NEED QUORUM.** Mark your calendars for PEC, Associates, Labour and Annual General Meeting Saturday, May 26th. This is your Association. Let your voice be heard.

**AGM & 50th Anniversary celebrations on track.** Fifteen Past Presidents confirmed. Come reminisce past memories and experiences with them. ECAA Honorary & Lifetime members also invited to participate as special guests. **Welcome:** Federated Insurance as **Platinum Sponsor**; Builder's Electric Company Ltd. as **Gold Sponsor**; Canem Systems, Wesco Distribution Canada, Eaton Yale Co. and Schneider Electric as **Silver Sponsors**; Territorial Electric and Simplex Grinnell as **Bronze Sponsors**. Thank you to these new sponsors who

join our list of 50th Anniversary Sponsors; **Silver:** Chemco Electrical Contractors; C.M.N. Electrical Systems Ltd.; Construction Labour Relations Alberta; Eecol Electric; Guillevin International; Trotter & Morton Building Technologies & Western Electrical Management. **Bronze:** Ipex Electrical Inc.; KELS Electric and Siemens Canada. **Wine Sponsors:** AAA Enterprises Electrical; Edmonton Electric; Eecol Electric; EQ Services; High Line Electrical Constructors (Edmonton & Calgary); K&L Electric; Territorial Electric; Demelco Electric Ltd.; Prolux Lighting; Schneider Electric; Thomas & Betts Inc.; Gordon Badach, PEC and MorQuest Electric. **Thank you again to the all of the companies who have generously contributed as sponsors for this event.**

**ECAA Provincial Golf Tournament**, Friday, May 25th at the Ranch Golf Course. Limited spots available contact [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca) ASAP to register. We are still looking for golf prizes. Willing to help? Contact [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca) or [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca). Thank You!

**Attention Associate Members:** Associates Committee Terry Sawatzky, John Robinson and Bob Clarke are looking for an Associate to put their name forward as committee representative. Attendance at most functions and meetings, as well as liaising with peers concerning industry activities is expected in this position. **Associates AGM** scheduled for Saturday, May 26th at 10:30 am. Quorum needed so please attend as we need your vote!

**Attention Associate & Contractor Members:** Opportunity available to sponsor refreshments at upcoming Chapter meetings and profile your company. Interested? Contact your Chapter President, Sheri McLean [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca) or Provincial Membership Chair Steve Warholik.

## Slate of Officers

**2012-2013 Provincial Slate of Officers nominated include:** Kelly Wilde, President; Les Dzwonkiewicz, PEC, Vice President; Darcy Teichroeb, PEC, Treasurer; and Keven Lefebvre, PEC, Secretary. **Director-at-Large (South):** Ron Mackenzie. **Director-at-Large (North):** Bob Maslanko, Terry Milot, Jonny Nielsen, PEC.

They need your vote and we need quorum! Let ECAA treat you at our Awards Luncheon as you exercise your member benefit.

## Labour Update

ECAA is presenting Province wide Code Changes Seminars to familiarize the Industry with changes in the 22nd Edition Canadian Electrical Code. See ECAA website for details. **Employees of Unionized ECAA Contractors, who are eligible for training benefits, can participate in these seminars and the cost will be picked up by the Electrical Industry Education Trust Fund of Alberta.**

Registration is to be done by contacting the Electrical Industry Training Centre in Edmonton at 780-462-5729 or in Calgary at 403-291-2787. Contractors are encouraged to send a group of your employees.

## Local Chapter Activity

**Calgary Chapter** - Next meeting Calgary Chapter AGM **Thursday, May 10th** at the Blackfoot Hotel. Elections & Annual reports presented. We need quorum and your vote! Please attend to vote in your 2012-2013 Chapter Executive (**President:** Mr. Scott White, PEC; **Vice President:** Mrs. Jaiden Bonville; **Secretary:** Mr. Doug Miller; and **Treasurer:** Mr. Barry Wentz).

**Guest Speaker:** Jack Graham, SAIT.

**Special Thank you from your Public Member Mrs. Sophie Schmaltz:** *"I would like to thank the following members on behalf of the Calgary Chapter for their participation at the recent Calgary Construction Association Career Fair: Carey Hourie, PEC, who solicited a number of materials from the following Associate members; D.A.D. Sales, Eecol Electric, Electrical Wholesalers, Gescan, Graybar, Guillevin, HD Supply-Litemore, McKenna Agencies, Nedco and Westburne Electric who supplied wire, pliers, strippers, and marrettes. Special thank you to Carey Hourie & Perry Schmaltz for manning the ECAA booth."*

**Central Chapter** - Next meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, May 9th** following the code seminar at The Black Knight Inn. A presentation will be made on the PEC program. Mr. John Biollo and Mr. Don Letcher will be attending this Chapter meeting providing a one on one opportunity for discussion.

**Edmonton Chapter** - Next meeting Edmonton Chapter AGM **Monday, May 14th** at the Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Center. Elections & Annual reports presented. We need your vote for quorum! Please attend to vote in Chapter Executive (**President:** Mr. Tom Morin, PEC; **Vice President:** Mr. Eric Fadden, PEC; **Treasurer:** Brent Connell, PEC; and **Secretary:** Mr. John Knoll)

**Guest Speaker** Dr. Kris Stepney, Brisbin Family Chiro. **Topic of Discussion:** The true cost of workplace injuries to employers. How to cut average injury costs 50% in as little as 1 hour. How spending money proactively actually makes you money.

**Lethbridge Chapter** - Next meeting scheduled for **June 6th** following the CE Code Seminar taking place at the Lethbridge Lodge.

**Medicine Hat Chapter** - Next meeting scheduled for **June 7th** following the CE Code Seminar taking place at the Best Western.

**North East Chapter** - Next meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, October 16th** at Spiro's Restaurant. Another successful Try-A-Trade; **thank you Perry Schmatz, Sophie Schmaltz, Keith Urlacher and Terry Barnett** for working the ECAA booth and showing the 120+ students how to splice wire! **Congratulations to "North East Chapter Neil Olsen Memorial Scholarship Recipient" 2nd year Lakeland College Electrical Apprentice Duncan Webb.**

**North West Chapter** - Successful Code Seminar held. Labour shortage? Tradeshow for women excellent program for entry level employers.

**To confirm your attendance for any of these upcoming Chapter meetings please contact Brittany Smith ([bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca))**

## New Members

Welcome to the ECAA: **Smart Electrical Contractors** (Cold Lake); **Studon Electric & Controls** (Edmonton branch); **Commercial Handyman Services Lloydminster** (Lloydminster); **CHTS Systems Inc.** (Okotoks); **Genivar Inc.** (Associate Calgary)

## Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

**Welcome New PEC's:** David Spratt (Chestermere) & Marc Scott Green (Banff).  
*Congratulations!*

**Attention all PEC Student Members.** Certified Master Electricians (CME's) can now be used as a professional reference for your PEC application.

**Path Forward for PEC's, CME's and RME's** a PEC AGM agenda item. Curious? Want input? Attend PEC Annual General Meeting on Saturday, May 26th at 8:00 am in Edmonton at the Marriott at River Cree - we're buying breakfast!

**All CME's & RME's encouraged to attend and join one of the regulatory committees.** We need volunteers to meet our committee mandate per our Regulations. Contact [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca) if you are interested.

## Residential Construction Industry Tradeshow

**Special thank you** to the volunteers who manned the ECAA booth at the RCIC tradeshow; **Clem Gratton, PEC; John Knoll, Dave Mackay, Gaylene Ouchar and Alex Zhang.**

## Volunteers Needed

### Upcoming Career Fairs:

- Provincial Skills (May 10th & 11th, Edmonton)
- National Skills (May 14th & 15th, Edmonton)

ECAA is still looking for volunteers for the upcoming tradeshows listed above. If you are able to volunteer please contact [bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca)

## Continuing Education

**Registrations being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2012 (complete list on ECAA website under PEC section and in Calendar of Events):**

**The Business and Public Relations course that was scheduled for May 11th & 12th, 2012 in Calgary has been rescheduled for September 28th & 29th, 2012** in Calgary at the request of the instructor. See below for more information on this course.

**\*Attention North East Chapter\*** At the request of Chapter members a Project Management course has been scheduled in Lloydminster June 1st & 2nd. Chapter is subsidizing cost of course for all ECAA members (Members - \$250; Non-Members - \$350). Contact [bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca) to register your employees today.  
*\*Minimum numbers must be met or course will be cancelled.*

**Electrical Project Management - June 1st & 2nd (Lloydminster)** 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

**Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE) - September 7th & 8th (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.

**Safety Principles - September 20th & 21st (Edmonton)** 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

**Business & Public Relations - September 28th & 29th (Calgary)** 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.

**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.

## From the Archives

**Save the Date!** 50th Anniversary AGM May 26th & 27th at the Marriott River Cree, Edmonton. *Come and celebrate ECAA's 50th Anniversary with President's and members from the past 50 years!*

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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