



# THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

January 7, 2013

Issue 24

## In This Issue

[President's Message](#)

[Getting to Know Your Executive](#)

[Industry News](#)

[Board of Directors Update](#)

[Labour Update](#)

[Chapter Activity](#)

[Volunteers Needed](#)

[Continuing Education](#)

## Quick Links

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

## Calendar of Events

*January 10th, 2013  
Estimating & Invoicing  
with the I-pad Quick Sale  
course  
Blackfoot Inn, Calgary*

*January 10th  
Calgary Chapter Meeting  
Blackfoot Inn, Calgary*

*January 19th, 2013*

## JANUARY/2013

### 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

Happy New Year everyone, I hope that the holiday season was full of good things for you and your family's. With 9 grandchildren I know mine was full of good cheer and many great moments.



Kelly Wilde

December was not so busy with just the ECA open house and the Calgary Christmas Social. Both events were well attended and I got to talk and meet many members at both. My wife and I attend the Calgary function and donated a few dollars to their charity. We'd like to thank Scott and the members there for their hospitality and making us feel at home. They had only one Hockey Jersey and it was an Oilers jersey.

Construction of the new ECAA offices is underway and we have had great support from our members and associate members to help us get this done. Thanks to all of you who have stepped up to the plate.

January should see the resuming of the Chapter meetings so watch for the notices and get out and support the meetings. And of course the Edmonton Presidents Ball is on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see lots of you out to the always fun night.

Please watch for the information that should be out soon for the AGM in Waterton. This will be a fun informative few days that you really should attend if possible. Not just because it's my AGM but we have a full slate of seminars for Friday that should be something for everyone. Hope to see you there. It's May 23rd - 26th so book it off right now so you can go see one of our greatest Parks.

*Edmonton Chapter  
Presidents Gala  
Chateau Crowne Plaza  
Edmonton  
Tickets on Sale Now*

*January 26th & 27th  
CEC Code Changes  
seminar  
8:00 - 12:00  
Edmonton*

*February 7th & 8th  
Legal Implications  
Course  
ECAA Boardroom*

*February 21st  
CEC Code Changes  
seminar  
1:00 - 5:00 Blackfoot  
Inn, Calgary*

*February 21st & 22nd  
Basic Electrical  
Estimating Course  
ECAA Boardroom*

## Tradeshows

***AEL Eco Conference  
January 2013***

***Lloydminster Try-A-  
Trade  
May 1st, Lloydminster***

***Provincial Skills  
Competitions  
May 15th & 16th  
Edmonton***

## Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

## Social Networking



Talk to you next month.

## Getting to Know Your Membership

*We thought our readers would like to know more about the member companies who make up the ECAA. If you are interested in sharing this information with our readers, please email [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca) a company profile.*

**WE WOULD LOVE TO FEATURE YOUR COMPANY -- PLEASE CONTACT US TO BE FEATURED IN AN UPCOMING ISSUE OF THE SPARK**

## Industry News

**The National Buyer/Seller Forum is taking place November 12-14, 2013, in Calgary, Alberta!** The must-attend oilsands event is taking you closer to Canada's biggest energy customers by moving to Calgary. The NBSF brings you all the oilsands supply chain action in one stop. Meet with buyers and sellers from across the chain. With international delegations, high-level producing companies, key suppliers and government representatives, the NBSF is the place to be if you are doing business in the oilsands.

Add November 12-14, 2013, to your calendar today!

Stay tuned for major program announcements in the New Year. [Sponsorship opportunities are available.](#)

WCB 2013 RATES. The vast majority of construction and construction trade services industry rate groups will see WCB premium rate reductions for their rate groups, with a few groups facing increases of 3% or less. Please follow the link to view the Announcement of WCB Premium Rates for 2013:

[www.wcb.ab.ca/public/news/2012/rates.asp](http://www.wcb.ab.ca/public/news/2012/rates.asp)

The Federal Government announced a new skilled trades immigration stream December 10th. Applications start January 2, 2013. The program criteria are built around four requirements that ensure applicants will have the right skills and experience needed to succeed here in Canada. In order to qualify, applicants will need to: 1. have an offer of employment in Canada or a certificate of qualification from a province or territory to ensure that applicants are "job ready" upon arrival; 2. meet a basic language requirement; 3. have a minimum of two years of work experience as a skilled tradesperson, to ensure that the applicant has recent and relevant practice as a qualified journeyman; and 4. have the skills and experience that match those set out in the National Occupational Classification (NOC B) system, showing that they have performed the essential duties of the occupation.

In order to manage intake, avoid backlogs and ensure fast processing times, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) will accept up to a maximum of 3,000 applications in the first year of the Federal Skilled

Find us on Facebook 

## Trades Program.

As you have some employees who may wish to pursue obtaining their RED SEAL certification, we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to [www.tradesinfo.ca](http://www.tradesinfo.ca). This is a free resource designed with the support of the federal government of Canada. It has been designed to assist trades professionals with learning how they can become certified in their particular trade within Canada. This site also contains information on the essential Skills required and key terminology for understanding and learning more about their particular trade and how they may advance their skills on their own time.

If you have employees interested in furthering their skills, please feel free to pass along the site to them. Additionally, employees are welcome to contact our program managers at our offices as we have distant education programs which allow professionals to pursue their RED SEAL credentials while still maintaining their employment. Please note as we are a non-profit agency we can assist individuals with accessing financial support with this endeavor.

They may contact our offices directly at 604-512-7538 or by email at [tradesplus@shaw.ca](mailto:tradesplus@shaw.ca).

On Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 the Edmonton Journal will once again be hosting their bi-annual Employment Job Fair at the **Commonwealth Field House** (please note the change in venue - a larger 40,000 sq ft space). This Job Fair covers the Trades, Career Planning/Job Find (Retail, Finance, Hospitality, Education, General & much more) and Health Industry categories. **Although the show is still several months away, early bird registration for the show closes on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.** September 2012 had over 6500 candidates and approx. . To place a recruitment/employment ad in the Edmonton Journal please contact Gul Saleh at (780) 429-5446 or [gsaleh@edmontonjournal.com](mailto:gsaleh@edmontonjournal.com)

***It's almost time again for the annual Construction Owners Association of Alberta Best Practices Conference.*** Mark your calendars for the Best Practices Conference to be held at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton on May 14 and 15, 2013. It will feature discussions and workshops on some of the most important issues facing the construction industry today. Registration will be done electronically again, starting in March 2013.

***Girls Exploring Trades and Technology Conference. Thursday, May 16, 2013, Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton.*** Journeywomen, female apprentices, and women working in the trade and technology sectors are encouraged to apply to be a Mentor for the exciting event. We are looking for energetic trade and technology specialist to share their experience, knowledge and enthusiasm for their career choice. Send us your mentor application and be part of a great day!

REMINDER: 2013 membership renewals due January 31st.

### Board of Directors Update

Next Board meeting scheduled for Friday, January 18th. Agenda items will include finalizing and approving the 2013 budget; results of past President's Council meeting to discuss participation of electricians in our Association; membership and PEC applications; updated committee and chapter reports; and correspondence items.

### Labour Update

Report in December issue of the Contactor. For unionized contractors wishing any information contact Jim Bendfeld, Labour Relations Coordinator at 780-619-8843 or the ECAA office 780-451-2412.

### Local Chapter Activity

**CALGARY** - Next meeting Thursday, January 10th at the Blackfoot Inn. Guest speaker Derrick MacCaskill on solar lighting. **Four spots still available for the four hour I-pad course.** Thank you to all who attended the Chapter Christmas social. Over 3 bins of food were donated and \$4142 raised for the Calgary Food bank through evening activities.

**Condolences to Calgary Chapter President Scott White on the loss of his mother.**

**EDMONTON** - Next meeting Monday, January 21st at the Chateau Louis Conference center. **Tickets on sale for: Edmonton Chapter President's Gala, January 19th, 2013 at Chateau Lacombe Crowne Plaza. Join us for a great meal, some fellowship and dance to the music of Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.**

### New Members

Applications will be approved at the January 18th Board meeting.

### Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

#### **PEC Ed Committee update Jan 2013**

The following article provides an update on the PEC Education Committee.

**IPAD HANDS ON TRAINING FOR ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS.** " IPAD Estimating and Invoicing" course will be held Jan 10 1-5 PM at the Blackfoot Inn, Calgary. This is a hands on course so you will need to bring your own iPad. It will be led by Shawn Rose who did the Nov 8 "Use of the iPad on the job site" course at the Calgary chapter meeting. This course will

be useful to people who own an iPad but have difficulty getting beyond using it for family photos. The Jan 10 iPad course will be of interest to electricians from the one man contractor to employees of large companies. It will cover iPad familiarization and several applications including electrical assembly inventory. Contact the ECCA office to get at seat in this course.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FRIDAY MAY 24, 2013 WATERTON TRAINING DAY** \_At the Friday May 24 training day at the ECAA Waterton Conference, we are planning 3 streams of training: Residential, Commercial and Industrial. Remember as a PEC you annually should be getting 20 points of APD (annual professional development). If you attend the Friday May 24 training from 8 to 5 and the Saturday May 25 PEC Meeting and AGM you will have earned 20 points for 2013. Speakers and schedules for May 24 are being finalized by PEC Ed committee in January and the intent is to have it out to you by February.

**DO A PRESENTATION ON ONE OF YOUR PROJECTS TO YOUR PEERS.** As is the trend in most professional conferences, we would like to have a presentation on an electrical construction project by your company (not financial or contract information) that would be of interest to fellow PEC's. For example at the Nov 2012 Buildex Conference in Calgary there was a presentation on the Calgary Airport expansion. We are looking for people willing to do a 45 minute presentation with questions and general discussion for up to 10 minutes. I am willing to assist anyone if they need help to convert photos, articles graphs, maps drawings into power point slides or do a practice session. If you have any suggestions on projects please contact [PEC\\_Edchair@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:PEC_Edchair@ecaa.ab.ca) or call [Mike Fleming 403 289 7565](tel:4032897565)

**PEC ED COMMITTEE COMPLETED PROJECTS WAITING FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.** The PEC APD (annual professional development) policy is complete and approved and was sent out with the PEC Annual Renewal information. Every PEC should be getting 20 points of APD annually and a minimum 60 points by 2015. The reporting form for your annual APD points record is being printed on line via the ECAA web and will be available later in Jan.

The ECAA Mentor-Mentee policy is complete and the application form is on the ECAA web at [http://www.ecaa.ab.ca/Attachments/PEC/Forms/ECAA\\_Mentor-Mentee\\_Application\\_Form.pdf](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca/Attachments/PEC/Forms/ECAA_Mentor-Mentee_Application_Form.pdf).

The Mentor-Mentee program is one way an experienced member

can give back or a newer member can access some of the great experience that exists within ECAA membership.

Any comments or questions are welcome.

Mike Fleming PEC Education Chair email :

[PEC\\_Edchair@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:PEC_Edchair@ecaa.ab.ca)

## CONGRATULATIONS NEW PROFESSIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS (PEC'S)

Completed applications will be presented to Board for approval at their January 18th meeting.

## Continuing Education

***Registrations are being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2013 form on ECAA website under PEC section and in Calendar of Events):***

**Legal Implications, February 7th & 8th (Edmonton).** The instructors for this course are from the legal firm of Fraser Milner Casgrain, LLP. This course will address such matters as incorporation, income tax and GST, construction contracts and subcontracts and liability there under, and perhaps most importantly, steps available to ensure payment, including remedies under the Builder's Lien Act. Liability in stamping and sealing drawings will also be addressed.

**Basic Electrical Estimating, February 21st & 22nd (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 or materials using the NECA Manual of Labour Units, labour costs, special overheads, general overheads and profit (contingencies). This course is taught by Mr. Pat Barnes.

### Also 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 Brittany ([bsmith@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:bsmith@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](http://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 [ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca)



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