

THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

August 5, 2013 Issue 31

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www.ecaa.ab.ca

Calendar of Events

Bob Carson Classic Golf Tournament

Highlands Golf Course

Wednesday

September 11th

Registration at www.ecaa.ab.ca

(Calendar of Events)

Upcoming CEC Code Changes

Seminars:

September 21st

8:00 am - noon

ECAA Office

Edmonton

October 10th

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Hotel Blackfoot

Calgary

*(These courses approved by Electrical
Technical Council to meet
re-certification requirements for*

AUGUST/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

THE CALL WAS MADE!!! And our members came up to the plate. HOW GREAT WAS THAT!!! The flooding in High River, Calgary and other southern parts of our great province came so fast, leaving behind such devastation and changing the lives and well-being of our neighbors and their families. Our thoughts are with you as you rebuild your future.

Our association received a call from the office of the Honorable Danielle Smith regarding the High River Community Information Expo asking for us to attend and answer residents questions regarding electrical safety and hiring qualified tradespeople. On short notice, Mrs. Sheri Mclean, who seems to be always on call, went to work organizing our presence in High River the weekend of July 12. Thanks Sheri.

Les Dzwonkiewicz,
PEC

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Calgary Chapter for working the weekend at our information booth:

Mr. Doug Miller, Chapter President; Custom Electric Ltd.

Mr. Fiorenzo Monna; Custom Electric Ltd.

Mrs. Sophie Schmaltz

Thank you to Mr. Kelly Morris of Morris Electric Ltd. for driving from Elkford, BC on such short notice. As a past president of the ECAA you offered a wealth of information. Everyone did a great job!!! And on a weekend, in mid summer. Thank you to all.

The ECAA has a new carrier for our Group Benefits Plan, ENCON GROUP INC. is taking over August 1st. Thank you to Sun Life for looking after all our past needs. Cathy Whyte has been in contact with all the members using the plan and has sent out new enrollment forms for you to fill out and send back to her office. If you have any questions please email her at catherine.whyte@sunlife.com or phone our office toll free 1-800-252-9375. This plan that we offer as an association is a great option for our members, especially if you are a small shop.

Talking about our group health plan I would like to share a few things regarding good health; just my thoughts on this subject. YOUR HEALTH IS YOUR GREATEST FRIEND, IT'S NOT THE CARDS WE ARE DEALT IN LIFE BUT IT'S HOW WE PLAY THE GAME. A healthy mind and body helps us create a healthy and prosperous business. As many people in this world, I try to eat right and get some exercise but sometimes that dessert tray looks too good to pass up. LOL

This month Mr. Steve Warholik, our membership chair, signed up more new

Master Electricians and Safety Codes officers)

Upcoming PEC Courses
Basic Electrical Estimating
September 6th & 7th
Hotel Blackfoot, Calgary
Project Management
September 13th & 14th
Hotel Blackfoot, Calgary
Safety Principles
September 19th & 20th
ECAA Office, Edmonton

Tradeshows

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Alberta Employment & Career Fair
October 4th & 5th
Edmonton Expo Center

Join Our List

Social Networking

members -- good job Steve. If anyone has leads of electrical contractors that may want to become members of the ECAA please let Steve know and he will pay a visit to that contractor with an information package.
I hope everyone is having a nice summer.

Getting To Know Your Staff

We thought our readers would like to know more about the volunteers, staff and members so we added this feature into the Spark.

Getting to Know Christine Hryniw

Company History: I have been with the ECAA now for 8 years and just back from maternity leave after having my second girl.

Family Members: My husband Curtis and I have two beautiful daughters; Ava (4) and Alianna (1)

Favorite Hobbies: Spending time with my family and my kids, being out at the lake fishing (summer & ice).

Favorite TV Shows: Anything but Tree House! Scandal, Game of Thrones & True Blood

Favorite Sports Team: FC Porto & Oilers

Most Memorable Vacation: Introducing my husband & daughter to my extended family in Portugal. Visiting my family in Sao Miguel, Açores - my favorite hot spot!

Affiliations with other Associations: None

Favorite ECAA memory: Too many to list! But always have the best times at AGM and the Bob Carson Classic.

Any word of advice to electrical contractors: Be passionate about what you do and strive for the excellence and level of professionalism that you know you can and want to achieve.

Best part of ECAA: The networking and people you meet. The opportunity to make a difference by being involved!

Industry News

Nominations Required - Alberta Apprenticeship & Industry Training (AIT) Board.
Beginning April 1, 2014 there will be vacancies on the AIT board for four members (two employer and two employee). ECAA has been asked to submit nominations for the positions. To be eligible you should have leadership experience, and a demonstrated understanding of board structure and governance processes, significant experience with the training and certification in trades and occupations, and experience in relevant industry organizations. Candidates applying for employer representative positions must demonstrate how they are involved in the hiring and management of apprentices or trainees.

It is important that the Board maintains an appropriate balance of employers and employees, industry sectors, trades and occupations, and geographic representation. To maintain that balance, preference will be given to applicants that represent the automotive/transportation sectors for one position. The board is currently well-represented by members from Edmonton; therefore, preference will be given to applicants from other areas of the province.

Letters of reference/support from relevant organizations or associations must be attached to your resume.

A public member is appointed for a term of up to three years and may be re-appointed for a further term of three years. To be effective, a Board member is expected to commit sufficient time for Board meetings, Board committee meetings, and other Board business as required. On average, three days per month are required. These positions have no salary; however honoraria and travel expenses are paid for meetings attended.

Interested in this unique opportunity? Be sure to visit www.jobs.alberta.ca between September 9-23 to file an application. Be sure to identify the vacancies you are applying for and contact ECAA for a letter of support.

STARS Building Magic in the Air gala sponsored by the construction industry, Saturday, October 26th, Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton. Sponsorship packages and ticket sales have been emailed to our members. Contact smclean@ecaa.ab.ca if you require further information or are willing to donate an auction/raffle item. This event raised approximately \$200,000 last year and a Spyder crane was purchased for STARS. This year a wish list for \$180,000 worth of tools submitted by STARS staff is the goal. PLEASE get involved.

July 8, 2013 - Diane Finley, Canada's minister of human resources & skills development (HRSDC), congratulated the Canadian participants and medalists at the WorldSkills Competition held in Leipzig, Germany. "Skills competitions are an exceptional showcase for talented young competitors, and they inspire other young people to explore careers in these high-demand fields," said Finley. "I am personally very proud of these young people who have represented our country so well on the international stage."

WorldSkills is a biennial event showcasing the abilities of hundreds of skilled young workers from around the world in various trades, technology and service industries. Over 1000 participants, including 35 members of Team Canada, competed for medals at the event. The team won a Gold medal in the Heating & Refrigeration category, as well as 14 Medallions of Excellence.

Skills/Compétences Canada (S/CC) coordinates annual skills competitions and selects and prepares competitors for the WorldSkills Competition. The 44th competition is being held August 2015 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Note from Zack Hartle, Electrical competitor: Hey Guys. I just want to let you all know how I did in the competition. I placed 9th out of 22. I got 509 points out of a possible 600. I received a medallion of excellence for receiving over 500 points and I am tied for the highest score Canada has ever received in industrial control. For that I couldn't possibly be happier. Thanks to all of you for your incredible support! I certainly couldn't have done it without you. I'll see you all in August, and thanks again! Zack Hartle

Congratulations to Ron Warholik on his new position as manager, Wesco, Fort McMurray. Wishing you all the best, Ron!

NETCO'S ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON AUG. 25, 2013 IN BANFF. NETCO's annual training conference is being held in conjunction with the IBEW All Canada Progress meeting on Sunday, August 25, 2013 at the Banff Springs Hotel in Banff, Alberta. The Conference Chair is Todd Chrunik, Training Director, Electrical Industry Education Trust Fund of Alberta jointly managed by IBEW, Local 424 and ECAA.

The conference is targeted to those involved in electrical apprenticeship and journey person skills training. This year's agenda will feature topics such as Mentoring, Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA) Strengthening the Red Seal Program, CSA e-learning resources and Essential Skills resources for Red Seal trades. The agenda will soon be posted at www.ceca.org/netco.

Police Launch Program to Reduce Theft of Heavy Equipment. The construction industry often leaves equipment on-site and uses generic equipment, with generic keys; making the theft of heavy equipment quick and easy. For that reason, police are urging those in the industry to "tattoo their equipment". Starting July 12th, Edmonton city police will give away invisible ink UV markers and removal resistant paint markers to owners of heavy equipment. Police hope the pilot program will help curb the estimated 30-55 pieces of heavy equipment stolen monthly.

12 Top Power Experts take on Power Grid Challenges in Canada

CALGARY, Alberta, Canada, September 12-13th, 2013 - TJH2b Analytical Services announces it will present TechCon Canada 2013 Conference and Expo at The Westin Hotel in Calgary on September 12-13, 2013. The goal is to give local utility companies, engineering firms in the area and from around the world, the opportunity to learn from top experts in the field, solutions to critical issues surrounding power grid maintenance and management strategies. Invitation has been extended to ECAA members. More information at <http://www.techcon.info/>

FISHING DERBY. For the past 30 years or so, Construction Industry individuals have been traveling to Shuswap lake to participate in a fishing/house boat trip. It's a great opportunity to spend some quality time with your customers, co workers, and industry peers. The houseboats are completely self contained with full cooking, sleeping and bathroom facilities. Please see the attached information on boat models which can be rented. More information on boat specifics is available on www.waterwayhouseboats.com.

The actual derby is September 19-21, with boarding possible the afternoon/evening of September 18. The derby weigh in is on Saturday night with all boats gathering for the evening. Boat return is on September 22. All participants are asked to book boat rentals directly with waterways. For some, fishing is foremost, and for others, it's the time spent with your fellow colleagues. Any that have participated will confirm that it is a great time. Please contact myself if you have any questions about the trip. Hope to see you this year.

Where? Shuswap Lake, British Columbia

When? September 19 -21, 2013

More Information?

Peter Litwinow (403)270-0333 plitwinow@escautomation.com

CHANGES TO TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKER (TFW) PROGRAM. Effective July 31, 2013, employers applying to hire TFWs must pay a processing fee of \$275 for each position requested to cover the cost of a Labour Market Opinion (LMO). Employers must complete the LMO application and the accompanying Processing Fee Payment Form, and submit these documents along with the required processing fee payment. The total payment must reflect the number of TFW positions requested on the LMO application (e.g. \$275 x number of positions = total payment). The TFWP must receive the entire processing fee along with the required documents before assessing the employer's LMO application. LMO applications received prior to July 31, 2013 will not be subject to the new processing fee. However, applications received with a postmark dated July 31, 2013 or later without the processing fee will not be assessed. A program officer will contact the employer or third-party representative and request that the NEW LMO application form be completed and submitted along with the required processing fee.

There will be no refund in the event of a negative LMO or if the application is withdrawn or cancelled since the fee covers the process to assess an application and not the outcome. Refunds will only be available if a fee was collected in error (e.g. an incorrect fee amount was processed). Effective July 31, 2013, amendments to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* come into force which introduce subsection 203 (1.01), a new language assessment factor. As a result of this change, English and French are the only languages that can be identified as a job requirement, both in LMO requests and in advertisements by employers applying to hire TFWs, unless employers can demonstrate that another language is

essential for the job. As of July 31, 2013, employers will need to make greater efforts to hire Canadians before they will be eligible to apply for temporary foreign workers. Employers must advertise available positions in Canada for at least four weeks before applying for an LMO. This requirement applies to all advertising methods. In addition to advertising on the national Job Bank website or the equivalent provincial/territorial websites, employers must prove that they have used at least two other recruitment methods that are consistent with the advertising practices for the occupation.

1. If hiring for a [higher-skilled occupation](#)-one of the methods must be national in scope;
2. If hiring for a [lower-skilled occupation](#)-employers must demonstrate that they made efforts to target under-represented groups in the labour force.

Employers must also continue to actively seek qualified Canadians to fill the advertised positions until an LMO has been issued. More information is available on advertising requirements under the Advertising and Recruitment tab for each stream of the TFWP.

As of July 31, 2013, the LMO application includes additional questions that must be answered by the employer. These questions were added to help ensure that the TFWP is not used to facilitate the outsourcing of Canadian jobs. For all LMOs requested, the TFWP assesses the impact that hiring a TFW will have on Canada's job market, based on available labour market information for the region and occupation. The labour market questions will ensure that program staff have the information needed to make sound decisions regarding LMO applications. A negative LMO will be issued if an assessment indicates that hiring a TFW will have a negative impact on the Canadian labour market or if an employer has not complied with the program requirements.

REVISED ELECTRICAL STANDATA. The following STANDATA have been revised and are now available on the Alberta Municipal Affairs website. To view or print a copy www.ecaa.ab.ca or Municipal Affairs website.

[LEG-ECR-2 \[rev 22\]](#) - Electrical Systems Equipment

[VAR-EUC-Scope \[rev 1\]](#) - Alberta Electrical Utility Code - Scope

New Building Code STANDATA has been released and is now available on the Alberta Municipal Affairs website.

Building Code Variance - This Variance also affects gas, plumbing, electrical and fire disciplines regulated under *the Safety Codes Act*.

[06-BCB-009](#) - Disaster Recovery Program Flood Mitigation Measures

[06-BCV-015](#) - Establishment of Temporary Neighbourhoods for Post-Disaster Occupancy.

To view all Variances issued for the Alberta Building Code 2006 [click here](#).

Federated Insurance Supports Alberta Flood Relief Like many organizations, Federated Insurance is committed to helping the Alberta flood situation where we can. Together with our parent company Fairfax, we are proud to support the Canadian Red Cross in their Alberta flood relief efforts with a donation of \$200,000. Federated employees also came together across the country to raise a further \$7,000. In addition to these donations, Federated Insurance has:

- Mobilized a CAT Response Team to the area to assist our Risk Services Coordinators and policyholders with any questions they may have.
- Dedicated Claims resources at our Calgary Office and additional

resources available in other offices should the need arise.

As part of our Claims Elite Service®, our regional property restoration contractor, Belfor Restorations, has also mobilized teams and equipment to assist policyholders.

Any Association members insured with Federated Insurance should contact their Risk Services Coordinator or our claims department at 1.800.342.9157. Additional flood resource information is available on our website: www.federated.ca.

"Our policyholders are our number one priority and we are committed to meeting their insurance needs and providing assistance where possible. This will help not only our policyholders, but all residents of Calgary and surrounding areas affected by the Alberta floods to recover and rebuild for a successful future."

Wayne Connelly, President, Federated Insurance.

Board of Directors Update

Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 25th, 2013. Prior board will focus on strategic/succession planning. We're still looking for a Communications Chair to join the Provincial Board of Directors - interested? Contact Sheri or Les.

CONVENTION 2014. Had to add a second extra day to Machu Picchu portion of trip (Air Canada cancelled flight to Lima). Registration forms should be finalized and emailed later this week. Minor delay as Farlie Travel was sold to Vision 2000. Congratulations to John (who will still be escorting the group). At this time limited to 70 people - register early to avoid disappointment. **Call for Speakers.** If you are planning to join us in South America and are interested in making a presentation to the group, please email your proposed topic to smclean@ecaa.ab.ca. We need a minimum of three presenters. On behalf of President Dzwonkiewicz, thank you.

Labour Update

Benefits available for unionized contractors from the Electrical Contractors Industry Fund. The Fund is supported by contributions from contractors signed to a collective agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers: Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB) - Certification

The initial CWB certification test and subsequent recertification test cost is reimbursed by the ECAA Industry Fund. Certification is valid for two years. The CWB AWS D1.3 for sheet metal (unistrut welding) test cost is also reimbursed by the ECAA Industry Fund. For additional information see the applicable article in the Collective Agreement.

The Industrial Construction Crew Supervisor (ICCS)

ICCS is a Designated Occupation certification that can be obtained under the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act. Application and Testing cost is reimbursed by the ECAA Industry Fund. For more information on the ICCS go to www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca.

Audiometric Testing

Alberta OH&S legislation requires that employers working in the industrial field have all new employees audiometric tested within the first six months of their employment, twelve months after the initial test and every two years thereafter, unless there are indications that more frequent testing is required. The ECAA has contracted a third party to conduct required audiometric testing. ECAA Industry Fund covers the third party costs.

Better SuperVision (BSV)

BSV is a management skills training program that provides skills training on Leadership and SuperVision, Labour Relations, Planning and Scheduling,

Productivity and Quality and Leading Effective Work Teams. Tuition cost is reimbursed by the ECAA Industry Fund. For information go to www.bettersupervision.org

Leadership for Safety Excellence (LSE)

LSE is a supervisory safety skills training program offered through the Alberta Construction Safety Association. Tuition cost is reimbursed by the ECAA Industry Fund.

Rapid Site Access Program (RSAP)

Case Managed Aftercare (as contained in applicable collective agreement) Union members not currently a beneficiary of the Health Plan request/require a Substance Abuse Expert Assessment: member is asked to join RSAP (optional); Referral is made to the third party manager Organizational Health Inc; OHI manages; ECAA Industry Fund covers OHI cost. (Note: For Bargaining Unit employees referred to OHI by an RSAP Contractor, RSAP contributions cover OHI costs).

English Benchmarking

When an individual's English skills to work safely are questionable and the employer requires the individual to take the standard Canadian Language Benchmarks test and the individual does not meet the benchmark the employer may be reimbursed for the individual's wages for the time taken to be tested.

Labour Relations Support

The ECAA Industry Fund provides support for resolving grievances, coordinating collective agreement negotiations, Membership Development Fund Applications, collective agreement interpretation and application, etc.

* * * * *

Red Seal Upgrade Preparation This five session program has been created by the Electrical Industry Training Center to assist members who are planning to write or re-write their Interprovincial (IP) Red Seal exam. The course includes a series of lectures covering single dwelling and apartment calculations, motor and motor bank calculations, three phase theory, conduit fill calculations, conductor de-rating calculations and power factor correction. Included in the course are a series of practice exams covering first to fourth year apprenticeship material and also numerous practice Red Seal tests. Participants should bring a Sharp 520 calculator (this is what is provided by AIT when you write the IP exam) and the latest CEC code book to the class. In order to get maximum benefit from this course, participants should be prepared to commit a few hours of their time to work on the quizzes between classes.

For registration information contact the Training Center 780-462-5729

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY: Next meeting Thursday, September 12th. Chapter board orientation on September 4th.

EDMONTON: Next Chapter meeting is Monday, September 16th. 24th Annual Bob Carson Classic September 11th. Golf registrations and hole sponsorship welcome.

CENTRAL: Next Chapter meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 1st in Red Deer.

NORTH EAST: Next meeting at Spiros, Wednesday, October 2nd.

FORT McMURRAY: Next meeting has been moved to October 8th due to the Oilman's show. President Joe MacNeil has resigned due to work commitments. Mr. Adam McNamara has agreed to let his name stand for President. Looking for additional volunteers to fill rest of Executive positions. Contact Sheri or Steve at ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca

NORTH WEST: Breakfast meeting Wednesday, October 16th, Pomeroy.

New Members

Welcome Bimark Electric Inc. (Calgary), Devon Electrical Services Ltd. (Edmonton), G Electrical Ltd. (Edmonton).

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

ECAA is looking for a second or back-up instructor for the "PEC Electrical Project Management" component of the PEC program. Due to program growth and continuity ECAA would like to have instructor "Bench Strength" for all PEC courses. The intention is to have this individual audit the September 13/14 2013 PEC Electrical Project Management course and then team teach as required in future courses. Preference will be given to individuals who have PEC certification and who have current experience in electrical project management and preferred (but not essential) formal project management training *such as PMP*. Any questions contact Mike Fleming PEC (Retired PMP) at mike_fleming07@yahoo.ca. Send your applications to ECAA, 17725 - 103 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5S 1N8 Attention: Sheri McLean.

(Note: ECAA will be seeking back-up instructors for all the PEC courses)

PEC Committee members still required -- especially for Marketing & Communication and Practice Review. Contact smclean@ecaa.ab.ab if you would like to participate on a committee or would like more information on one of the committees.

CONGRATULATIONS! New Professional Electrical Contractors (PEC'S)

Blaine Banyard, PEC# 249 and Stephan Scharfenberger, PEC# 250

Continuing Education

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

Basic Electrical Estimating, September 6th & 7th (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 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.

Project Management, September 13th & 14th (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:

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

Safety Principles, September 19th & 20th (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 (steps to follow and processes involved).

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 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, September 6, 2013.

Electrical Contractors
Association of Alberta

17725 - 103 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5S 1N8

Phone: 780-451-2412 Toll Free: 1-800-252-9375

www.ecaa.ab.ca

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