



# THE SPARK

## ECAA E-Newsletter

September 6, 2013

Issue 32

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### Quick Links

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

### Calendar of Events

#### **Bob Carson Classic Golf Tournament**

*Highlands Golf Course*

*Wednesday*

*September 11th*

Registration at [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://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*

SEPTEMBER/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

We are seeing hints of fall around the corner and one thing I've found, it is a lot easier to check and repair car plugs when it is warm than when the wind is blowing 50K and it is 25 below. So many times customers phone electrical contractors in late October or November when their vehicle won't start, message: when can you get here!!!! So get ready for winter, it is coming sure as you know what.



Les Dzwonkiewicz,  
PEC

On that note, it is so nice to get away from winter in February and speaking of getting away from the cold, our "Out of Country" Convention is coming up this February 15-27, 2014. Look for the details on the web site [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca) It will be fun, sun, wine, and some great culture. Experience South America with our group in a safe and exciting way. It will be great to see what their electrical installations look like compared to ours, live and learn in a safe and fun way and hope everything is grounded. LOL If you are thinking of coming please sign up early.

We are adding a new column to our website; it is going to be called THE TRADING POST. You know, we all have inventory that sits in the shop left over from a job or a bad order, and we keep moving it around to make room for more. Convert that dead stock into some cash or, if you need something that is no longer made someone may have it and maybe you can get it for a great price. You can advertise it on "THE TRADING POST". Wait for the details coming up but to get things started I have a 45 ft. highway van for sale, great for job site storage.

If you have questions regarding the electrical industry ask it and maybe someone has come across this situation and can send you an answer, this is one of the reasons we belong and have an association. By working together we as a group add to our community, a safe and competitive industry.

In The Spark, that is put out every month, I am hoping we can add a new column for a guest writer. That person can write about topics pertaining to our industry,

## Calgary

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

Join Our Mailing List!

## Social Networking



Find us on Facebook 

this can be an engineer, architect, business owner, educational facility, government and so on. We want our web site and The Spark to become more and more of a community meeting point for information and fellowship, this is such a great resource for the ECAA.

So with summer over and September here I look forward to some great meetings.

Here is a quote from W.C. Fields that I found on the back of a menu at a pub. "ONCE, IN THE WILDS OF AFGHANISTAN, I LOST MY CORKSCREW, AND WE WERE FORCED TO LIVE ON NOTHING BUT FOOD AND WATER FOR DAYS"

Best regards  
Les Dzwonkiewicz  
President ECAA

**The following is an excerpt from Dan Olesen, Director, Stakeholder Relations and Business Development, CAREERS: The Next Generation who became involved with ECAA last year.**

*"Being a part of the ECAA during the 2012-2013 season was excellent! I would be glad and grateful to speak again on CAREERS: The Next Generation and the RAP program. Being a part of, and working with the ECAA has rewarded me with information and insight that has allowed me to better understand the industry and the companies within my community. I may not have won any of the high valued 50/50 draws, but I certainly left each Chapter meeting with more than what I came in with every month -from changing codes and industry practices, integrating new technology, to understanding the opportunities and benefits with continuing in professional development.*

*I was most appreciative of the people that I met and caliber of attendees. A variety of dedicated professionals interested in discussing and sharing knowledge, stories, experiences, and contacts fostered an environment that was interesting and fun. It is easier to talk about a career pathway, when you are surrounded by those who can discuss it with conviction.*

*The forging of stronger relationships enabled CAREERS to deliver better messaging to students; in turn, place more than 30 high school RAP electricians in Calgary alone with smart companies, and set record high for our zone! CAREERS highly values this spirit of collaboration.*

*We are looking forward to 2013-2014. Thanks ECAA for everything!!"*

Regards,  
Dan Olesen

## Industry News

**DONATIONS NEEDED FOR STARS Building Magic in the Air** gala sponsored by the construction industry, *Saturday, October 26th, Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton.* Please contact [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto: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.

**Congratulations to Brian Alford and the Safety Codes Council on their 20th Anniversary. Thank you for including ECAA in your celebration.**

**We have a new Chief Electrical Inspector.** Congratulations and a warm welcome to **Clarence C. Cormier**, P.Eng. Clarence will be in attendance at the September 16th Edmonton Chapter meeting and we look forward to meeting him there.

**Revised Building STANDATA.** The following STANDATA has been revised and is now available on the Alberta Municipal Affairs website. To view or print copies go to the link below.

**Building Code Bulletin** - This Bulletin also affects the plumbing and electrical disciplines regulated under the Safety Codes Act.

[06-BCB-009R1](#) - Disaster Recovery Program Flood Mitigation Measures

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

**SUPERVISOR TRAINING. BASIC AND ADVANCED Fort McMurray - October 1 and 2, 2013 Calgary - OCTOBER 8 and 9, 2013** CannAmm is pleased to present the Basic and Advanced Supervisor Training in Fort McMurray on October 1 and 2, 2013 and Calgary on October 8 and 9, 2013. **The Basic Supervisor Training** will inform the participants on the basics of a proper fit-for-duty program, signs and symptoms of drug and alcohol use and abuse. Other discussions include proper documentations on reasonable cause testing, the role of supervisor in dealing with employees under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, various human rights issues as they pertain to drug and alcohol testing, as well as confidentiality, health, workplace issues, and many more. During the **Advanced Supervisor Training**, participants will review Basic training information; learn how to deal with denial and enabling; how to meet with the employee. They will also receive further training on denial and enabling as well as on Reasonable Cause by working with various situations. Participants are asked to bring the Supervisor Manual received at Basic training and any example of situations they would like to discuss. We encourage you to register early as seating is limited by submitting the registration forms by fax or email to [training@cannamm.com](mailto:training@cannamm.com)

**Welcome to the 1st Annual CREC POKER TOURNAMENT** Wednesday, October 16th 2013, at the Casino Edmonton. For further details [click here](#). Any questions contact Shaq Bitar - ILSCO (587) 336-6463.

**2014 Electrical Learning EXPO** - ONE day event March 19, 2014 Join the Alberta Electric League on March 19, 2014, at the Edmonton Marriott River Cree for our 2014 Electrical Learning Expo! Meet with other members of the Alberta Electrical League - including manufacturers, presenters, and local companies - and see what they have to offer.

**September 4, 2013 - Special announcement The Alberta Construction Association is pleased to announce acceptance of an application to rejoin membership of the Edmonton Construction Association.** ACA Chairman Bob Robinson declared *"This is a great step for Alberta's construction industry. The Edmonton Construction Association is a highly respected and professional organization whose board, membership, and staff add tremendous expertise to help address the many challenges and opportunities facing our industry. A united industry provides certainty for our clients and strength to our advocacy".* **Edmonton Construction**

**Association Board President Marvin Olansky added** *"The Edmonton Construction Association with 82 years of history, and current membership of 1,134 member firms, is enthusiastic about joining 2000 other member firms of the Alberta Construction Association. We affirm and join the ACA commitment to making significant contribution for keeping Alberta at the leading edge of construction, innovation and success. We see great benefits for all Albertans that will result from the collaboration and cooperation of working together in the provincial community of construction".* The membership is effective September 3, 2013.

**12th Annual Alberta Health & Safety Conference and Trade Fair** BMO CENTRE - Calgary, Alberta October 21 & 22, 2013. The Health & Safety Conference Society of Alberta (HSCSA) is a not-for-profit association, consisting of health and safety associations, employer associations, professional societies, and other strategic partners. The aim of the Health and Safety Conference Society of Alberta is: To promote the importance of Health and Safety by hosting a multi-partner Conference annually, that will provide a source of Health and Safety education to the conference attendees. **PLEASE NOTE** our new phone number is: 780-989-2525

Nominate your most impressive construction projects of the year for an **Alberta Construction Magazine Top Projects Award!** Winners will be featured in a prominent position in Alberta Construction Magazine's Winter 2013 issue and recognized when the judges' results are revealed at our Top Projects Awards luncheon, scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013, at the Markin MacPhail Centre at WinSport's Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, Alberta. **Nominate your project in one of the following categories: Commercial; Industrial; Institutional; Civil; Design; Sustainability** Nominations are now open for the 2013 competition. Submissions will be accepted until end of day Oct. 1, 2013. The entry fee is only \$25....or become a sponsor of the Top Projects Awards luncheon! Sponsorship opportunities are still available for the 2013 Top Projects Awards luncheon. For further information, contact Paul Sheane at [psheane@junewarren-nickles.com](mailto:psheane@junewarren-nickles.com)

#### 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. Registration deadline September 16th.** If you have not received the convention package or require more information please contact Sheri ([smclean@ecaa.b.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.b.ca)). 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](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca). On behalf of President Dzwonkiewicz, thank you.

#### Labour Update

***The Joint Conference Committee has approved the following method for managing employees who may have difficulty with the English Language.***

**Language Demands of Electricians (English Benchmarking)** The Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta (ECAA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 424 (IBEW) contracted Hammond & Associates Inc. in 2010 to project manage an initiative to analyze the language demands of electricians employed in industrial worksites in Alberta. The Electrical Industry Education Trust Fund of Alberta and the Alberta Provincial Government funded this initiative. Research study was conducted guided by an advisory committee

representing key stakeholders.

The language demands of electricians employed in industrial worksites in Alberta were related to the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB). The CLB as presented in the CLB 2000 are the national standard used in Canada for describing, measuring and recognizing the second language proficiency of adult immigrants and prospective immigrants for living and working in Canada. The CLB provides a descriptive scale of communicative proficiency in English as a second language, expressed as twelve benchmarks or levels for four skill areas: reading, writing, speaking and listening.

When an individual's English skills to work safely are questionable the following is suggested.

1. An Employer or the Business Manager's office may request the individual to take the standard test.

When an Employer is requiring the test the Employer notifies the Business Manager's Office. The Union maintains a list of members which have been tested.

If the individual has previously taken the test and met the language benchmark of electricians employed in industrial worksites in Alberta no additional testing is performed.

The employer must manage any risk that a lack of communication skills may pose. This may result in the individual being reassigned to work where the risk is manageable.

If a test is required the Employer makes the arrangements for the test. It is preferable to schedule the test on a regularly scheduled work day. When this is impractical the test may be scheduled on a regularly scheduled day off. The Employer and individual may mutually agree on the schedule. When the test is taken on a regularly scheduled work day and the individual meets the benchmark the individual is paid for all time. When the test is taken on a regularly scheduled work day and the individual does not meet the benchmark the individual is paid for the time taken for the test. When the test is taken on a regularly scheduled day off the individual is not paid for the time taken for the test.

When the individual tests and fails to meet the demands the individual may be given a non-disciplinary termination. If the Employer terminates the employee the Employer will notify the Union of the termination.

1. A listing of testing agencies can be found at [www.language.ca](http://www.language.ca).
2. When requesting a time for the individual inform the testing agency employment is contingent on testing and each day it is delayed is loss of income for the individual. Testing agencies are usually accommodating and will schedule a test as soon as possible.
3. It is recommended that supervision be trained on the English Benchmarking process. Contact Bill Begemann at Local 424 for information on training.

#### Local Chapter Activity

**CALGARY: Danielle Smith, Leader Wildrose Official Opposition**, speaker at the Thursday, September 12th meeting.

**EDMONTON:** Meet the newly appointed Chief Electrical Inspector at the meeting on September 16th and find out what's new in Fire Alarm Technology from Simplex Grinnell. Is your team registered for 24th Annual Bob Carson Classic September 11th? Join us at the Highlands.

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

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

**FORT McMURRAY:** Next meeting October 8th at the Nova.

**NORTH WEST:** Luncheon meeting at the Pomeroy on Wednesday, October 16th.

### New Members

Welcome Decoded Electric (Calgary) and Horizon North Power Systems (Edmonton).

### Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

**ECAA is looking for** an instructor for the "PEC Assessing & Finalizing the Tender" component of the PEC program. Preference will be given to individuals who have current experience in electrical estimating and the PEC designation. Any questions contact Pat Barnes through [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca). Send your applications to ECAA, 17725 - 103 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5S 1N8 Attention: Sheri McLean.

**Interested in marketing the PEC program? Have ideas to communicate the program to new electricians?** We need you on the Marketing & Communication committee. Contact [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca) 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)

**John Knoll**, PEC# 251, **Azim Hasmani**, PEC# 252, **Jeff Himmelspeck**, PEC #253 and **Steve Lysak**, PEC #254.

### Continuing Education

**Registrations are being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2013 form on ECAAwebsite 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).***

Practical hands-on skills to learn and apply project management processes and knowledge areas, to reduce project cost through effective purchasing and administration; to avoid paying for others errors or omissions; to recover all costs which you are entitled; effective record keeping to enhance project profitability.

1. list and apply Project Management processes (5) and knowledge areas (9)
2. Identify and recover all costs to which you are entitled.
3. Avoid paying for others' errors or omissions.

4. Reduce project costs through effective purchasing and administration.
5. Identify cost overruns - and take corrective action
6. 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](mailto: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](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 [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca).

**The next issue of The Spark will be emailed Friday, October 4, 2013.**



Electrical Contractors  
Association of Alberta

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