



# THE SPARK

## ECAA E-Newsletter

May 2, 2014 Issue 40

### In This Issue

[President's Message](#)

[Industry News](#)

[Board of Directors Update](#)

[Chapter Activity](#)

[New Members](#)

[PEC News](#)

[Continuing Education](#)

[Quick Links](#)

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

[Calendar of Events](#)

#### ***Upcoming CEC Code Changes Seminars:***

*May 8th, 2014*

*12:30 pm - 5:00 pm*

*Best Western Port O'Call  
Calgary*

*\*Chapter meeting to follow*

To register for the Code Seminars please fill out the following form and send it to the ECAA Provincial Office.

Confirmation notices will be sent out.

[Code Seminar Registration Form](#)

***These courses approved by Electrical Technical Council to meet re-certification requirements for Master Electricians and Safety Codes Officers***

***Upcoming PEC Courses***

**MAY/2014**

### 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

Thank you for giving me your trust as your president. I have enjoyed it so much and have had a lot fun as your president and learned so much from so many. It has been a great year as I have traveled from chapter to chapter meeting members from each part of the province. The attendance at the chapter meetings has been very good with interesting topics and great guest speakers. The Calgary chapter meeting on September 12th we had the pleasure of the Honorable Danielle Smith of the Wild Rose Party as guest speaker. Our membership has increased with contractor members, associate members, PEC and PEC students as well as REM and CME membership. I was very proud to attend the Safety Code Councils 20th anniversary on September the 5th with Sheri and Darcy as we represented the ECAA and met some very nice people. The committees have been very active and I am happy to say worked very hard this year taking care of business.

Les Dzwonkiewicz,  
PEC

The ECAA is the organized voice of the electrical industry in this province, with so many members representing thousands of electricians we participate on many boards. We are very active in the electrical industry as well as the construction industry as a whole dealing with safety, code, apprenticeship and government issues. We take time out as well, to network with fellow contractors as well as people involved in the construction industry in this province and Canada. If you are interested in getting involved in the ECAA please call our office and let us know.

Some of the high lights for me this year were the following:

Presenting the top electrician award at the Alberta Apprenticeship & Industry Training awards night.

Attending the Stars Air Ambulance gala and fund raiser, such an important service in Alberta.

Attending Alberta Venture publication, Contractor of the Year awards.

Invitation and attending the APEGA awards night as a special guest.

Attending the Edmonton Chapter President's ball.

Our ECAA open house at Christmas.

The 2014 out of country convention to South America.

*Accounting Principles  
May 8th & 9th, 2014  
(Edmonton)*

*Project Management  
June 5th & 6th, 2014  
(Edmonton)*

*Design Build  
June 19th & 20th, 2014  
(Edmonton)*

#### Tradeshows

**Skills City Provincial Skills  
Competition**  
May 14 & 15, 2014  
Edmonton Expo Center

#### Join Our List

#### Social Networking

Thank you to the past presidents for their vision and guidance over the years. It takes many volunteers to keep this association on top, many hours are donated by a whole lot of people, time that they take away from their personal lives. A big thank you to all our Board of Directors and committee members. To Sheri our Executive Director and the office staff it has been so nice working with you and for all your help through this year. The finances are in good shape going into the coming year so it is nice to see only black and no red.

Best wishes to the new executive this year and I look forward to working with you as past president.

Your President,  
Les Dzwonkiewicz PEC

#### Industry News

As part of the Alberta government's commitment to achieving greater transparency and accountability for occupational health and safety, **the Ministry of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour is releasing 2012 Employer Records** at the end of this month. In addition to lost time claim rate and fatality information which was provided in previous releases, disabling injury rates will now be included. A further enhancement will allow records to be sorted by the various data fields. If you have any concerns regarding the information contained within the reports, please contact the Occupational Health and Safety Contact Centre by phone at 1-866-415-8690 (Toll-free within Alberta), 780-415-8690 (Edmonton and surrounding area) or by email at [whs@gov.ab.ca](mailto:whs@gov.ab.ca)

**Congratulations** to ECAA's sponsored 2013 Top Electrical Apprentice recipient Matthew Christie who was recognized by the Alberta Apprenticeship & Industry Training Board.

Congratulations to **Alberta Venture Contractor of the Year winner AltaPro Electric** (companies under \$15 million).

**Well Springs initiative.** The Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta (Edmonton Chapter) has chosen to support the initiatives of Wellspring Edmonton. When it opens in 2015, Wellspring Edmonton will complement medical treatment and health care services currently available by filling essential gaps - all at no cost for cancer patients and their families. With our members help, families and friends in Edmonton and across Northern Alberta will have the support they need to face the life-changing effects of cancer. Wellspring Edmonton is that support - a lifeline people need to help them overcome the emotional, physical, spiritual and practical challenges of cancer and finding a new sense of well-being following medical treatment. Further information forthcoming from ECAA or contact [www.wellspringedmonton.ca](http://www.wellspringedmonton.ca)

#### **From Alberta Construction Association (ACA) Website:**

The Construction Engineering Technology program at NAIT requires volunteers to review the course content for its estimating course.

- The volunteer must be an experienced estimator for a general contracting firm actively preparing bids on projects in our Alberta market.
- The volunteer estimator will be asked to review course content to determine if the information in the course needs revision/updating to current market standards.
- Attendance to one or more of the current estimating classes and interaction with the students would be a benefit.
- The estimator would prepare a list of recommended improvements for the advisory committee to review and submit to NAIT requesting a change to course content materials.
- The time required to complete this will be determined by the volunteer

doing the assessment.

If you are interested in helping please contact [ken.gibson@albertaconstruction.net](mailto:ken.gibson@albertaconstruction.net) for more information.

**ACA's annual Golf Tournament** is Thursday, May 29 at the Alberta Springs Golf Course in Red Deer. Download the registration form [here](#). A sponsorship of \$300 + GST provides the opportunity to register a maximum of 4 golfers. (Registrations are \$160 plus gst per golfer) Please email Belinda at [info@albertaconstruction.net](mailto:info@albertaconstruction.net) for further information

**CALGARY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION CAREER EXPO** (April 16, 2014) The ECAA was once again invited to participate in the annual Calgary Construction Show this past April 16. Under the ECAA banner, our contractor members joined together to participate in a very successful Career Expo.

There were 45 exhibitors and over 2500 students. **Thank you to the contractors and their employees who joined our exhibit: Canem** - Matt Finck, Noah Spensley, Diane Hancox, Zach Muspratt, Zack Hartle; **Custom** - Ryan Peterson, PEC; **Highline** - Chris Jardine, JC Windsor; **Western Electrical**- Richard Chambers

Students stopping by our booth were given the opportunity to try their skills at wire splicing, pipe bending, light wiring and were entered into a draw to win an Apprentice Starter Kit. Winner of the kit was a student from Sir John A Macdonald **Thank you to Steve Cromartie, PEC of Balzac Electric, who arranged for the donated items for our booth. And, of course, a very big thank you to:**

--Kevin McLaren from Eecol Electric in Airdrie who donated wire strippers, linesman pliers, EMT as well as the Apprentice Starter Kit, as well as give aways to the students.

--Gescan Airdrie who donated a roll of loomex and wire strippers.

--Gescan Calgary who donated wire strippers.

--Canem supplied marretts.

--Custom provided USB sticks for student give aways.

Thank you to everyone for their donations and ongoing support. Our volunteers were kept busy right from the time the doors opened at 10.00 a.m. until close at 3.00 p.m. In fact, the pipe bending was so popular that we ran out of pipe! Many many questions about the electrical trade were asked and answered by our excellent volunteers!

Many of the other exhibitors stopped by and commented on the number of volunteers we had and how well organized our booth was. Thank you to our contractors who offered up members of their work force for the day! And a very big thank you to Matt Finck and Ryan Peterson, PEC who helped develop our new display banner and the set up of our exhibit..

### Board of Directors Update

Meeting held April 23rd. In attendance President Dzwonkiewicz, PEC; Mr. Darrell Castor; Mr. Bob Clarke; Mrs. Jeanette DeBruin; Mr. Clem Gratton; Mr. Dave Hagen; Mr. Brian Halina; Mr. Doug Miller; Mr. Terry Milot; Mr. Chris Rauschnig, PEC; Mr. Tim Tarita; Mr. Darcy Teichroeb, PEC; Mr. Steve Warholik; Mr. Ray Wery, PEC and Mr. Kelly Wilde.

Agenda items included discussion on Electrical Incidents/Accidents Standata; AIT's initiative to proactively address the anticipated skilled workforce challenges facing Alberta and the \$200 million allocated to the Alberta heritage Scholarship Fund to help apprentices complete their programs (\$9 million available every year beginning in 2015); Associate membership for journeyman electricians; Prompt Payment Legislation, February financials; AIT Top Apprenticeship Awards; 2015 ECAA Training Day & Convention; approval of membership applications; updated Chapter and Committee reports (detailed reports in the 2014 Annual Report book available prior to AGM). Presentation on ECAA and PEC marketing initiatives. Ways & Means discussed updated ESTS course; posting examples of charge out and

change order forms; approved 3 year supervisor level sponsorship commitment to STARS; approved pursuing two additional Top Apprentice award scholarships (Communication Technician and Instrument Technician) in addition to the Top Electrical Apprenticeship already sponsored by ECAA; and succession planning.

**Nominations Committee:** Provincial slate of officers for 2014-2015 to be voted in at AGM include: Mr. Darcy Teichroeb, President; Mr. Keven Lefebvre, Vice President; Mr. Darrell Castor, Treasurer; and Mr. Eric Fadden, Secretary. Thank you for volunteering.

Next meeting is Friday, September 19th (with board orientation September 18th). Count down to Training Day & AGM. Quorum required. Please rsvp your attendance to [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)

**Open door policy:** ECAA Board of Directors invites those interested in sitting in on a Provincial Board meeting and bring forth ideas or just to gain a little perspective. Please contact Sheri McLean ([smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca)) to sit in on a future meeting. Members also encouraged to attend a Chapter Executive meeting to gain more insight into what your volunteers do.

**Have something to say?**

ECAA is currently looking for guest writers for the Spark. Contact Les or Sheri.

### Local Chapter Activity

**CALGARY:** Next meeting **Thursday, May 8th** at the Best Western Port O'Call. Speaker: Staff Sergeant Jason Bobrowich "Metal/Wire Theft"; refreshment sponsor, Seletech Electrical Enterprises; Dinner sponsor: Electrical Wholesalers. Elections for 2014-2015 Executive - quorum required.

**CENTRAL:** Meeting held Wednesday, April 9th at the Red Deer Lodge. Guest speakers Randy & Danny Oltmann, McKenna Agencies provided an excellent presentation on "Wireless Home Automation".

**EDMONTON:** Next chapter meeting **Monday, May 12h**. Speakers: Jason Zurowski, Renewable Energy: Wind/Solar and Kevin Sorenson, Epcor. Refreshment sponsor: EECOL. 2014-2015 Executive will be voted in - quorum required. Please join us in extending a huge thank you to out-going president, Eric Fadden, PEC.

Join us for our **Summer BBQ Social** on **Wednesday, June 11th** from 4-7 pm at the ECAA Provincial Office. Tickets are \$10 for 2 drinks and hamburgers or smokies! For more information email [carnett@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:carnett@ecaa.ab.ca)

**NORTH WEST:** Excellent meeting held on **Thursday, April 24th**. Thank you to Mr. Walter Chledowski for providing an update on the Master's Advisory Board and to Mr. Dave Bentley, Hub International for educating the group on the changing face of contract security. Thank you to refreshment sponsor, EECOL.

**FORT MCMURRAY:** Meeting was held on **Tuesday, April 8th**. Concern brought up on unqualified tradespeople soliciting work. Excellent presentation by refreshment sponsor 3M and Scott Gardner, 3M Fire Stop. Fort McMurray Chapter will be hosting a **Golf Tournament on June 26th at the Miskanaw Golf Course**. Registration forms on the ECAA website or contact Dwayne Blanchard @ [Dwayne.blanchard@sonepardis.ca](mailto:Dwayne.blanchard@sonepardis.ca). Mark your calendars!

**NORTH EAST:** Meeting was held on **Wednesday, April 30th** at Spiros Restaurant. Excellent presentation by Ward Harrison, Occupational Health & Safety on Fines and how they are levied. Thank you to refreshment sponsor Wesco.

### New Members

Welcome new Associate & Contractor Members: **Arcom Technical Services Ltd.**(Edmonton); **B&C Electrical** (Edmonton); **Integrated Home Systems Inc.**(Edmonton) Associates: **Royal Building Products** (Calgary); **TenCate Protective Fabrics** (Calgary)

## Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

### **ECAA Training Day, Friday, May 23rd, 2014 Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton**

Program agenda finalized. Check ECAA website [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca) for registration form and updated information.

Industrial speaker: *Phil Thebault, NEDCO* "**Lighting Solutions in the Industrial Environment**". Industrial customers view savings from a different perspective. The benefits and pitfalls of Energy Saving lighting solutions. Is LED right for you and your customer? Compare it with HID or High Performance fluorescents. Selecting the right product will ensure a positive lighting environment coupled with energy savings to pay for the job. Learn a few extra lighting design tricks that will deliver savings while maintaining or increasing productivity.

*Russ Drackett, Schneider Electric* "**The Importance of Testing & Commissioning**" Value proposition of Testing & Commissioning new equipment and systems. Understanding the initial costs, and return on investment. Commissioning from a Quality perspective.

General Interest speaker - *Lane Gross, Brian Lowes & Shawn Bower, Lloyd Saad Insurance* "**Managing Risk in Pursuit of Growth**" Protecting your Assets through Fleet Management, Cost Control through Loss Control, Emerging Risks for Contractors, Managing your costs of risk.

*Chris Tse, Blitz Conditioning Inc.* "**Fitness in the Future; How technology has changed the way we get healthy**" The vast majority of Canadian adults, (over 15 million) spend half of their waking hours at work, 60% of Canadians spend their workday seated and 56% can be classified as inactive. Education is the first step, living a healthy active lifestyle is a multi-faceted commitment comprised of physical activity, healthy eating and setting meaningful realistic goals. A workplace wellness program offers the opportunity for employees to engage in physical activity, which, studies have shown reduces the risk of many illnesses, as well as increasing energy levels and productivity.

*From the Desk of the PEC Education Chair Larry Cantelo, PEC*

## Continuing Education

**Registrations are being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2014 form on ECAA website under PEC section and in Calendar of Events: Contact Christine Hryniw ([chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)) to register or for more information on the program. [2014 PEC COURSE REGISTRATION FORM](#)**

**Accounting Principles, May 8th & 9th, 2014 (Edmonton)** This course will introduce you to the terms and concepts of accounting and show you how to use them to attain goals and controls for future growth. You will learn practical skills to help you develop, interpret and use financial data, pin-point problem and profit areas, and focus your resources toward a successful electrical contracting business.

**Project Management, June 5th & 6th, 2014 (Edmonton)** 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

**Design Build, June 19th & 20th, 2014 (Edmonton)** The design build course is an orientation to a relatively popular project delivery method that is intended for

estimators, managers, engineers, executives and owners of electrical contracting firms to address opportunities in design build and expand their market share.

**ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE THROUGH ECAA.**

**FIRST LEVEL SUPERVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM**

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 cost is \$400 and to enroll contact Christine [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)

**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, June 6th, 2014.**