



# THE SPARK

## ECAA E-Newsletter

January 9, 2015

Issue 47

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

### Calendar of Events

#### Upcoming PEC Courses

*Legal Implications*  
**February 12th & 13th, 2015**  
**(Edmonton)**

*Safety Principles*  
**February 27th & 28th, 2015**  
**(Calgary)**

### Tradeshows

**2015 RAP Skilled  
Trades Showcase**  
**February 18th, 2015**

James Fowler High School  
Calgary, AB

**February 25, 2015**

Lord Beaverbrook High School  
Calgary, AB

**AEL 2015 Electrical  
Learning Expo**  
March 25, 2015

**JANUARY/2015**

### 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 and welcome to 2015. I hope everyone enjoyed some family time over the holiday season and was able to rejuvenate some energy for the upcoming New Year. Our Alberta economy shows its dynamic swing patterns with 50 dollar oil and 80 cent gas prices. We haven't seen these low prices since 2008/2009. Although it's nice to fill our gas tanks for under \$50.00 these days, we as experienced Albertans know there will be an economic price to pay for this situation. I expect in the coming months our electrical estimating teams will be in full swing securing tenders and projects for 2015 with hopes of another busy construction year.



Darcy Teichroeb,  
PEC

Our ECAA office and committees remain busy with industry events and opportunities for development. I enjoyed meeting members and friends at a very successful Calgary Christmas open house in December and look forward to meeting more members while attending chapter meetings in Ft McMurray, Lethbridge, and Lloydminster this month. The Edmonton chapter Presidents Ball is also this month and I look forward to attending this event. Our next ECAA board meeting is January 23 as well.

Our PEC marketing committee has been busy in the past several weeks working on a marketing and promotional strategy to increase the exposure and visibility of our PEC program. I look forward to seeing their accomplishments in the coming months.

Keep your toques and mitts at hand as our January cold weather settles in and I hope the fallout of this oil pricing situation does not have too great of negative impact on our Electrical Business sectors.

Darcy Teichroeb PEC, CME  
ECAA President

### Industry News

**ECAA 2015 Training Day.** "Changes in Codes & Standards" is the theme for our upcoming Training Day on **May 22nd, 2015**, CopperPoint Resort, Invermere, BC. Registrations now open! Click on the following link for an updated copy and to register today. [TRAINING DAY REGISTRATION FORM](#). Keep an eye out early

Calgary, AB

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February for complete Convention registration packages. Hotel booking information can be found on the Training Day Registration Form. Take advantage of the excellent room rates and book your rooms today! Deadline for booking is April 15, 2015.

**2015 CE Code Books Now Available!** Contact ECAA Provincial Office for more information.

**EIAA ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 6th & 7th, 2015** CHATEAU LOUIS HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE 11727 Kingsway Ave. Edmonton Alberta T5G 3A1 Tel:780-452-7770 Fax: 780-454-3436 Toll Free: 1.800.661.9843 [www.chateaulouis.com](http://www.chateaulouis.com) Registration form on ECAA website ([www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca))

**Grande Prairie Regional College Master Electrician Certification Prep Course (TD004)** Description: This course is designed to address a wide range of topics to advance you knowledge in electrical design or engineering in the residential, commercial or industrial sectors with topics to include: interpreting rules within the Canadian Electrical Code, calculation and application of demand factors, review of single and three phase systems, transformer connections, overcurrent protections of transformers, motors and feeders, and interrupting capacities of fuses and circuit breakers. This course will cover the 2012 Canadian Electrical Code; Alberta STANDATA; Industry Training Act; Electrician and Apprentice Regulations; O.H.S.A; WCB; and Permit Regulations. This course will consist of 80 hours of Theory training. **Dates:** Feb 19 (Th), 20 (F), 21 (S), 22 (Sn), 28 (S), Mar 1 (Sn), 7 (S) & 8 (Sn), 2015. To register click on the following link <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/ce/courses/details.html?ID=TD004&cat=516>

***A Foreign Qualification Recognition (FQR) Plan for Alberta*** is an integral component of our 'Made-in-Alberta' immigration approach. It identifies collaborative and strategic actions that will help our province make significant progress towards improving the labour market success of immigrants. The plan supports and enhances other key government strategies including Building and Educating Tomorrow's Workforce and Supporting Immigrants and Immigration to Alberta. This FQR plan is based on a comprehensive systems approach that links key stakeholders to the critical strategic actions that affect the successful labour market integration of immigrants. For more information click here [A Foreign Qualification Recognition Plan for Alberta](#). You can also reference [A Pan-Canadian Framework for the Assessment & Recognition of Foreign Qualifications](#). IQAS (International Qualifications Assessment Service) which is an Alberta government service mandated to promote the fair recognition of education received from outside Canada. Click on the following link for more information [IQAS \(International Qualification Assessment Service\)](#). For more information and other qualification assessments refer to [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)

**Alberta Electric League 2015 Learning Expo** will take place on March 25, 2015, in Calgary, Alberta at the Grey Eagle Casino. For more information or to register visit <http://albertaelectricalleague.com/learning-expo/>

#### News from Alberta Construction Association

**Message from the Minister** "Since becoming the Minister of Infrastructure just a few short months ago, I've learned a great deal about the construction industry and the importance of the relationship between government and industry. I'd like to thank your organization for being willing to take the time to meet with Deputy Minister Barry Day and myself to discuss the issues and opportunities we're all facing. We appreciated the frank and honest feedback and agree there is room to improve how we work together and I'd like to reiterate the value industry brings to the table. We're in the process of redirecting the focus of our organization. Based on feedback I have received from your members, work has already started to re-engineer our contracting policies and procedures. This is an important step to standardizing government contracts that will modernize government's procurement process. There will be more changes coming to ensure

more effective monitoring, faster decision-making and above all, increased accountability. These changes will start early in the New Year as we focus on the business of the Ministry - delivering physical infrastructure. And with the biggest capital build of schools in Canadian history - 230 - there's a lot of work to be done in Alberta. Some RFPs have gone out and more are coming for Phases 2 and 3 of the schools plan. But it doesn't end with schools. Albertans also need infrastructure like a continuing care facility in Parsons Creek and a provincial facility in High River. You can find out more about our upcoming opportunities through the Government of Alberta's Purchasing Connection (<http://www.purchasingconnection.ca/>) These are only a few examples of the work that's going on in our great province and I look forward to continuing to work with the construction industry to deliver these important projects to Albertans." -- Manmeet S. Bhullar, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure

[ACA Applauds Alberta Infrastructure Response to Industry Concerns Regarding Change Orders and Mark-Ups](#). As noted in our invited article from Alberta Infrastructure Minister Bhullar, Alberta Infrastructure has numerous project opportunities in the short and long term. ACA applauds the Minister and Department for their commitment to work with industry to re-engineer contracting policies and procedures and modernize government's procurement process. As part of this process, ACA Chairman Scott Matheson is leading a significant industry effort to review contracts with Alberta Infrastructure. While this work will be underway for some time, ACA applauds Infrastructure for moving forward this Fall to address some longstanding ACA recommendations. Changes adopted by Infrastructure align with industry standard practices and are a model for owners that strive to remain preferred clients.

In particular, ACA acknowledges key changes:

**Section 01\_26\_63B Change Order Procedures:**

Additions to Direct Costs (under Definition 2.3 page 1):

- Operation and maintenance of site offices as a Direct Cost
- Administration at a site office as a Direct Cost
- additional bonding and insurance cost as a Direct Cost

Increase to Labour Burden 3.6.2.2 (page 3) to 45% of Direct Labour Cost

**Section 00\_72\_00B General Conditions of Contract**

Increases in percent mark-ups in 2.5 Valuation of Changes (page 9 of 22):

.4 On extra work authorized by the Province, and to be paid for under method 2.5.1.1, the allowance for overhead and profit shall be based on the following schedule: .1 For work performed by Contractor's own forces, including work performed to accommodate work performed by Subcontractors, the Contractor shall be entitled to a mark-up of 15% on its actual Direct Costs related to the change in the work for overhead costs and profit. .2 For work performed by Subcontractors, including work performed to accommodate work performed by Sub-subcontractor: .1 Each Subcontractor shall be entitled to a mark-up of 15% on actual Direct Costs related to the change in the work for overhead and profit. .2 Contractor shall be entitled to 10% on the Subcontractors' total price to cover their Administrative Fee and profit. .3 For work performed by Sub-subcontractors: .1 Each Sub-subcontractor shall be entitled to a mark-up of 15% on actual Direct Costs related to the change in the work for overhead and profit. .2 Subcontractor shall be entitled to 10 % on the Sub-subcontractors' total price to cover their Administrative Fee and profit. .3 Contractor shall be entitled to 10 % on the Subcontractor's above total price to cover their Administrative Fee and profit.

[OHS Code Review Under Way for Safety WCB Committee](#)

The ACA Safety WCB Committee is currently working its way through the OHS Code review process. Thanks to your input we are able to look at a number of issues that concern us and will be pushing ahead to create a position on the overall changes and how to work with the government on this important file. High on the list of concerns within our industry is the Silica monitoring and it will be an issue we will continue to advocate for our members. We will continue to push for changes within the new code as well as trying to get clarity on a number of rewritten sections. ACA will share with members our final submission in January 2015.

### [ACA Seeks to Reduce OHS Barriers Across New West Partnership](#)

ACA met with government partners last week to present industry views on the means to reduce OHS regulatory barriers across the New West Partnership region of BC, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. ACA thanks members for their input. We would also like to thank our provincial association counterparts who helped us draft our presentation this past week. You may read our presentation [here](#).

**WCB Announces Drop of Premium Rate.** The WCB announced that due to increased employer performance they are offering a six cent drop in the average industry premium rate in 2015, to \$0.97 per \$100 of insurable earnings. The WCB will begin sharing individual rates with employers over the next few weeks, and wanted to ensure that employers have up-to-date information on what is happening in the workers' compensation system. Check out the [WCB website](#) for information on sector and industry rates, the factors that went in to establishing 2015 rates, and links to services that can help you improve your rate. If you are an employer, the WCB encourages you to sign up for Loss Control Reporting under [myWCB](#) to get a personalized rate statement in December. If you have any questions, please contact [corporate.communications@wcb.ab.ca](mailto:corporate.communications@wcb.ab.ca).

**For more information and news from Alberta Construction Association visit <http://albertaconstruction.net/>**

### Board of Directors Update

Next scheduled Provincial Board meeting is Friday, January 23rd, 2015.

### Have something to say?

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

### Local Chapter Activity

**CALGARY:** Join us for our **Industry Information & Casino Nite on Thursday, February 12th**, at the Best Western Port O'Call. Members are encouraged to bring a non-member. Contact [carnett@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:carnett@ecaa.ab.ca) for more information and to RSVP. **2015 RAP Skilled Trades Showcase** will be hosting a career fair at James Fowler High School on February 18th, 2015 and Lord Beaverbrook High School on February 25, 2015 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. If you are interested in volunteering contact Doug Miller ([d.miller@customelectric.com](mailto:d.miller@customelectric.com))

**EDMONTON:** Next chapter meeting **Monday, January 19th** at the Chateau Nova. **Guest Speaker:** Gerry Wiles, City of Edmonton; Tim Roskey, The Inspections Group; Andy Balding & Kevin Sorenseon, EPCOR **Topic:** Questions You Want Answers To. Contact [carnett@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:carnett@ecaa.ab.ca) to RSVP or for more information.

Join us for our **Edmonton Chapter President's Ball on Saturday, January 24th** at the Crowne Plaza. Contact ECAA for tickets.

**FORT MCMURRAY:** Next meeting **Tuesday, January 13th** at the Chateau Nova. **Guest Speaker:** Les Gill & Eric Leatham, Keyano College; **TOPIC:** Bursaries & Donations. Contact [carnett@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:carnett@ecaa.ab.ca) to RSVP or for more information.

**LETHBRIDGE:** Next meeting **Wednesday, January 14th**, at the Lethbridge Lodge. **Guest Speaker:** Marc Garner, ME, LJE with Lethbridge College; **Topic of Discussion:** Code Rule 4-004.

**NORTH EAST:** Next meeting **Tuesday, January 27th** at Spiros Restaurant. **Guest Speaker & Topic TBA.**

### Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

#### From the Desk of the PEC Education Committee Chair

As promised in my December article I wanted to make you aware of some professional development (PD) opportunities that are available online. If you are a

few hours short of obtaining your APD points for the year one or more of these may be of interest to you. These are not by any means the only online options for obtaining your points. As well there are many face-to-face training opportunities available from organizations such as Canadian Trainco and the Electricity Forum. If you run across any courses, whether face-to-face, online or in some other format please send me the web address so I can pass the information along to others.

Yours in education.

Larry Cantelo, PEC  
PEC Education Committee Chair

#### Webinars and Online Learning Opportunities

Organization Name	Website	Instructions	Comments
Electrical Construction & Maintenance	<a href="http://www.ecmweb.com">www.ecmweb.com</a>	Link to training at top of screen then click on webcasts.	Lots of maintenance related content.
Interstate Renewable Energy Council	<a href="http://www.pvonlinetraining.org">www.pvonlinetraining.org</a>	Online training for code officials but is open to anyone interested in PV.	US Content
Underwriters laboratory	<a href="http://lms.ulknowledgeservices.com/home.aspx?LSMID=465473">http://lms.ulknowledgeservices.com/home.aspx?LSMID=465473</a>	Link to eLearning to see list of what is available	Numerous courses. US Content
Consulting Specifying Engineer	<a href="http://www.csemag.com">www.csemag.com</a>	On upper right go to education and you get a drop down link to webcasts.	Lots of very good, free short webinars
Quick Mount PV	<a href="http://www.quickmountpv.com">www.quickmountpv.com</a>	Link to training & events at top of screen	Numerous short PV racking webinars
Renewable Energy World	<a href="http://www.renewableenergyworld.com">http://www.renewableenergyworld.com</a>	Link to webcasts at top of page	Renewable Energy

#### Continuing Education

Registrations are being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2014 form on ECAAwebsite 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.

## [2015 PEC COURSE REGISTRATION FORM](#)

**Legal Implications, February 12th & 13th, 2015 (Edmonton)** This course will increase your awareness and understanding of legal issues and pitfalls common to electrical contractors. The course will also address incorporation, income tax and GST, construction contracts, subcontracts and liability thereunder as well as how to ensure payment for your work - including remedies available under The Builders' Lien Act.

### **Safety Principles, February 27th & 28th, 2015 (Calgary)**

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

## **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 is complimentary to all unionized electrical contractors and their employees that have a bargaining relationship with the IBEW Local 424. **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, February 6, 2015.**



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