



THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

March 6, 2015

Issue 49

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www.ecaa.ab.ca

Calendar of Events

Upcoming PEC Courses

Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE)
March 19th & 20th, 2015
(Edmonton)

Assessing & Finalizing the Tender
April 17th & 18th, 2015
(Calgary)

Business & Public Relations
April 24th & 25th, 2015
(Calgary)

*Computer Estimating
for Small Projects*
April 30th & May 1st, 2015
(Edmonton)

[PEC Course List & Dates](#)

Tradeshows

MARCH/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

After a short month of February and since the last Spark message the Electrical Industry keeps moving forward with changes, announcements, and progressive events. As Electrical Industry businesses we are challenged with balancing the current Alberta economic uncertainty with our need to stay positive and maintain prosperous growth. Current stakeholder activities within the industry include the passing of new codes by our Provincial Cabinet. Codes such as the Alberta Building Code 2014 and the Alberta Fire Code 2014 will be implemented on May 1, 2015 subject to transition periods. Stay tuned to our ECAA reports and notifications (including an information bulletin #42 from the Canadian Home Builders Association) for more detailed information. There are still positive indications that the 23rd edition of the Canadian Electrical Code 2015 will also make its implementation within the year. Our ECAA office is working hard to organize the code update training classes required for this new code.



Darcy Teichroeb,
PEC

I would like to offer congratulations to the Safety Codes Council (SCC) who has revealed their new Visual Identity including a new modern logo. Check it out on the SCC website. On the same note the ECAA and the PEC new branding continues to make progress with the hard work of our marketing committee members.

I have also heard very positive feedback and appreciation for the Industry Nights put on by our Calgary and Edmonton Chapters. I would like to commend the Edmonton and Calgary chapters for their efforts hosting these events.

AGM in Copper Point is coming quick so if you haven't booked your time and accommodation please take this as a friendly reminder to think about it. Numbers are increasing and I look forward to seeing you all there.

I look forward to meeting more of our members at some upcoming events.

Darcy Teichroeb, PEC
ECAA Provincial President

Industry News

ECAA 2015 Convention & Training Day. Complete conference program and registration now available. [CONVENTION REGISTRATION PACKAGE](#). "Changes in Codes & Standards" is the theme for our upcoming Training Day on **May 22nd**,

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Bi-Provincial Try-A-Trade
Career Expo
May 6th, 2015
Lloydminster, AB**

**Provincial Skills Competition
May 13 & 14, 2015
Edmonton Expo Center
Edmonton, AB**

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

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2015, Copper Point Resort, Invermere, BC. ECAA thanks the following sponsors who have generously donated to our Convention. **Platinum Sponsors:** Black Wolf Inspection Services Inc.; Federated Insurance; IBEW Local 424. **Silver:** Guillevin International Ltd.; Western Electrical Management (Calgary). **Dessert:** Gescan. Thank you! If you are interested in sponsoring and would like more information refer to the convention registration package or contact us directly.

As we get closer to AGM and official quorums need to be met, just a reminder **membership renewals are due**. We are pleased to see all the hotel reservations being made at Copper Point. All the 1 bedroom suites have been filled. There are still standard rooms and 2 bedroom suites available. Don't hesitate to book your room today by calling 1-855-926-7737. **Deadline for booking is April 15, 2015. Remember to send your convention registration forms to ECAA.**

"What's New In the 2015 Canadian Electrical Code" Seminars have been scheduled. Click on the following [REGISTRATION FORM](#) to sign up. This course is approved for CME's and PEC's. Code Books also available for sale. Click on the following order form to get your copy today. [2015 CODE BOOK ORDER FORM](#)

New Alberta Building, Fire and Energy Codes The 2014 editions of the Alberta Building Code and the Alberta Fire Code based on the 2010 National Building and Fire Codes were adopted at the end of February 2015 by provincial regulation. Also adopted by regulation is the National Energy Code for Buildings (NECB) 2011 edition. For more information and details on when these codes can be implemented in Alberta follow the link below:

[Notice - New Alberta Building, Fire and Energy Codes](#)

Electrical Industry Newsweek released an article on **Section 62: Fixed Electric Heating Systems written by Pierre McDonald, CET**. Users of the Canadian Electrical Code, 23rd edition will see a completely re-written Section 62 covering fixed electric heating systems. Advances in new heating technologies as well as increases in electric heating efficiency at the point of use have seen growth in industrial, commercial and residential applications. Changes to Section 62 include these new applications as well as a complete re-organizing of existing requirements. Rules that duplicated requirements or were repeated for different installations have been combined. Significant entries have also been included within Appendix B to assist with clarification. This article will attempt to simplify the requirements and illustrate the total overall change within Section 62. To view this article click on the following link (<http://electricalindustry.ca/latest-news/1074-section-62-fixed-electric-heating-systems>)

BUILDEX Edmonton March 17th & 18th, 2015 (Edmonton Expo Centre) BUILDEX Edmonton is the city's largest tradeshow and conference for the Construction, Renovation, Architecture, Interior Design and Property Management industries. With over 150 exhibits, and more than 35 educational seminars BUILDEX attracts over 2,500 attendees annually. To register click on the following link <http://buildixedmonton.com/register-now/>

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/>

AB Chapter Lunch & Learn: "Automatic Sprinkler Systems plus an Overview of the 2015 Code Changes". March 26, 2015 The Calgary Danish Club (727-11 Avenue Southwest, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0E3). The CFAA Alberta Chapter is please to host the upcoming lunch & learn session with guest speakers Jeff Banda, Vipond and Tom Vankosh, Simplex Grinnell. For more information and to register please click on the following link (<http://www.cfaa.ca/Seminars/66-ab-chapter-lunch-learn-automatic-sprinkler-systems-plus-an-overview-of-the-2015-code-changes.aspx>)

Canada's prestigious fifth annual health and safety awards - Canada's Safest Employers - has launched a new category to recognize employers for best

practices and leading initiatives specifically for young worker health and safety. In 2012 more than 31,000 young Canadian workers were seriously injured on the job and 32 of them died. Workers under the age of 25 are hurt at a disproportionately higher rate and companies need to pay special attention to this vulnerable part of the workforce. If your company has excellent practices in place to keep its young workers safe, apply now for the inaugural [Young Worker Safety Award](#). Visit www.safestemployers.com for details. **Nominations close June 1, 2015.**

News from Alberta Construction Association

[2015 Alberta Construction Trade Definitions Now Available.](#) ACA is pleased to announce publication of the 2015 ACA Trade Definitions. ACA, its member local construction associations and the 3000 plus member firms endorse adoption of the 2015 ACA Trade Definitions as a best practice, and encourage all tender authorities and their design consultants, specification writers, and contractors and suppliers to cite and utilize the 2015 ACA Trade Definitions for their projects. The ACA Trade Definitions are a living document and will continue to be periodically improved and updated. Stakeholders will be advised as updates are published. You can obtain a copy of the 2015 ACA Trade Definitions by downloading a complimentary copy from www.albertaconstruction.net or from the website of your local construction association.

[ACA Golf Tournament Seeking Sponsors.](#) The Alberta Construction Association's 47th Annual Golf Tournament will be held this year on Thursday, May 28 at the Alberta Springs Golf Course in Red Deer. Sponsorships are only \$300 (plus gst). With sponsorship, you have the opportunity to register a maximum of 4 golfers in advance of the general golf registration distribution. (Registrations are \$160 plus gst per golfer). If you would like to sponsor, please contact Belinda by email at info@albertaconstruction.net.

[Innovation in Construction Forum Invitation.](#) The Hole School of Construction Engineering at the University of Alberta is pleased to announce **ICF 2015, April 15-16, 2015 at the Edmonton EXPO Center.** Construction leaders delivering insight into today's challenges and solutions. Leaders from across the industry will be offering insights through presentations and networking opportunities. Luncheon keynote speaker, Dr. Andrew Leach, who will provide his perspective on the state of the Alberta energy industry. Enbridge Professor of Energy Policy at the Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta, Dr. Leach blogs for Maclean's and The Globe and Mail on energy, environment and oilsands issues. If you would like to register to attend please visit [their website](#).

[Alberta Government Public Budget Consultations.](#) The Alberta government is seeking input on the budget deliberations for 2015. Questions revolve around issues important to industry such as corporate tax hikes, infrastructure spending, and budget cuts. To have your say on the issue please [go to this page](#). You can fill in the online survey or attend a public meeting on the schedule provided. The ACA has offered the Government of Alberta its own pre-budget recommendations which you can find [here](#). Also you can find our [letter to the Finance Minister](#) regarding ACA priorities.

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

Careers: The Next Generation - Testimonial from a RAP Student

Patience, attention to detail, and being responsible were some of the key lessons Cal, RAP Student Electrician, highlighted in his talk at the Soaring: Indigenous Youth Career Conference in Calgary on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at the Telus Convention Centre.

CAREERS: The Next Generation was invited to join the ECAA at this inspiring event that offered indigenous students the opportunity to participate in engaging career workshops, explore post-secondary options, and meet industry professionals at an interactive trade show.

CAREERSNextGen was asked to deliver a workshop to more than 45 aboriginal high school students from Southern Alberta, with a focus on career opportunities in the skilled trades and the advantages of the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP). Cal contributed with his experiences.

Cal, now a grade 12 student, first learned about RAP after a CAREERSNextGen workshop at his high school, in the Fall of 2013. He remembered "courage to take an action step" was key to career exploration. He then joined Dan Olesen from CAREERSNextGen to a local ECAA chapter meeting. Seen as an opportunity to learn more and network with industry professionals. He was encouraged to apply, and got the job with Canem Systems Ltd. He started in July 2014.

Remembering the first month of work as a time where Cal had to prove to both Canem and himself that a career as an Electrician was right for him. While working he learned attention to detail and the importance of precise measurements. He said initially, he was concerned that he would "mess up" or make mistakes. When asked what happened when you did make a mistake, he said "my supervisor was there to instruct and coach me to learn from it and keep moving forward." Cal said that he took his work seriously, to earn the respect of his employer, so that they would keep teaching him, and "reduce his time on the broom." Implying, if he didn't learn from his mistakes, then the broom would be there waiting for him.

Cal was eager to modify his schooling schedule. He worked full time during summer and full time the first semester of school. In less than 6 months, Cal had earned more than 40% of his high school diploma in RAP and more than 1000 hours in his blue book. Modestly, he mentioned how much money he has saved. When asked what he plans to do with all that cash, he said "I am saving up to buy a house!" In consequence of the semester model (an option in RAP), Cal has a heavy course load the 2nd semester of grade 12. He is not concerned. In grade 11, his math mark was in the mid 60s. This year he says that Math is easy, with a mark better than 84%. Why? "All the math that I had to learn on the job, has helped, and it is the same math I am learning in school right now!" He also added that responsibility is not just about when you are at work or school, what you do after hours also counts. "I make sure that I eat well and get a good night sleep. If my brain and my body are not at their best, then I can't function," in meeting the demands of a long working day (or school day).

Cal is aware of the advantage he has over many of his peers. The work ethic Canem Systems helped instill into Cal has helped prepare him for the road ahead and he can't wait to return to work after his exams in June and pursue his certification, by going to SAIT in the Fall of 2015

The response from the students, at the end of the presentation was awesome, and a female student from Lethbridge reached out her hand, with a huge smile on her face, confidence and courage in her eyes. As we shook her hand, she said "I am inspired, thank-you!" Both CAREERSNextGen and Cal thanked the ECAA for the opportunity to present at this event to enable youth on their path to rewarding careers!

Dan Olesen, Careers

Board of Directors Update

Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 18th in the ECAA boardroom. Any member interested in attending please contact Sheri at Provincial office.

Have something to say?

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

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY: Thank you to all who participated in making Industry Information & Casino Night so successful. Next meeting is Thursday, March 12 at the Best Western Port of Call. Guest speaker Lowell Dahlman, Hoyme Manufacturing presenting "*Dampers, Relays and Air Exchangers*".

EDMONTON: Industry Night with Wine & Food Pairing was enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to Adam Koziak, Chateau Louis Liquor Store for explaining his wine choices and to the associate members with their table top displays. Next meeting is Monday, March 16th at the Chateau Louis Conference Center. Presentation by Lane Gross, Lloyd Saad Insurance on the topic of "*Managing Risk Through an Uncertain Economy*".

FORT MCMURRAY: Next meeting Tuesday, April 14th at the Chateau Nova.

LETHBRIDGE: Next meeting Wednesday, April 22nd at the Lethbridge Lodge. A code seminar is scheduled prior to the chapter meeting. Contact Tammy at ECAA (ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca) to register.

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) to register or for more information on the program.

[2015 PEC COURSE REGISTRATION FORM](#)

Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE), March 19th & 20th, 2015 (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 of materials using the NECA Manual of Labour Units, labour costs, special overheads, general overheads and profit/contingencies.

Assessing & Finalizing the Tender April 17th & 18th, 2015 (Calgary)

This course for the Professional Electrical Contractor courses covers organizing the estimate, finalizing the tender, and computer aid in estimating and finalizing the tender. Since the course is aimed at Professional Electrical Contractors, very little time is spent on basic take-offs. The course addresses calculations of various overheads, mark-up theories, labor factors, evaluating risk factors, and the like, all concerns that the active business manager meets up with every day. These three parts of this course are designed to create an awareness in the Professional Electrical Contractor of the various business principles involved in preparing his or her tenders.

Business & Public Relations April 24th & 25th, 2015 (Calgary) A series of five modules designed to give you essential and proven management concepts in the areas of managing: Credit & Collections, Business Promotion, Sales Management, Business Management and Human Resource Management. Each module will teach you hands-on management strategies to immediately begin improving the performance and profitability of your electrical contracting business.

Computer Estimating for Small Projects, April 30th & May 1st, 2015 (Edmonton)

This course is designed to provide the new estimator or contractor with a basic understanding of how to prepare an estimate. It covers:

- Planning for the estimate
- Preparing counts, take-offs
- Preparing the Bill of material for supplier pricing and Review of the Bill of

- material
- Accubid "Bidwinner"
- Use of assemblies, where to enter miscellaneous costs, supplier pricing, overhead costs, and the final pricing sheet
- Use of Excel spreadsheets to assist with take-offs

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**

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, April 10, 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

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Avenue | Edmonton | Alberta | T5S 1N8 | Canada