



THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

October 2, 2015

Issue 56

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www.ecaa.ab.ca

Calendar of Events

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October 19th, 2015

(Edmonton)

October 21st, 2015

(Bonnyville)

November 14, 2015

(Edmonton)

January 14th, 2016

Calgary

January 18th, 2016

Edmonton

OCTOBER/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

As I was reflecting on an update for this month's Spark, I reminded myself of a new initiative which was enacted as a trial at the last provincial board meeting. I had a brief meeting ahead of the board meeting between myself and the chapter presidents who were in attendance. Healthy discussion of common goals and issues to the various chapters including membership and the state of local economies around Alberta was had. This rewarding discussion and networking will be held regularly ahead of board meetings into the future. Remember to send any specific items you may want to share in a smaller forum with your chapter president.



Keven Lefebvre,
PEC

I am already thankful to the many members of our Association who lend a hand without question to assist with the heavy lifting involved with some of the projects at hand. For example, I attended the CECA AGM and convention in September and with the help of Sheri Maclean & Terry Milot, we shared our progress on prompt payment as well as learned some important updates as to where this topic is at across Canada among other topics of common interest.

Coming out of the CECA meetings, I have a good awareness of the current state of the electrical industry across Canada and also a better appreciation of the root cause and long term economic impacts of "hold backs" and why it has become imperative that Alberta and indeed all of Canada enact prompt payment legislation sooner rather than later. Thanks Terry.

I hope to see many of you personally over the next number of months as I start to attend some of the Chapter meetings across the province. Cheers for now.

Keven Lefebvre PEC
Provincial President

Getting to Know Your Associates

Allstate is one of the insurance companies endorsed by ECAA

Upcoming Events

**ECAA Logo Launch
December 2015!**

**January 23rd, 2016
Edmonton Chapter
President's Ball**

[2015 Code Seminar Registration
Form](#)

[2016 Code Seminar Registration
Form](#)

Upcoming PEC Courses

*Assessing & Finalizing
the Tender*

**October 15th & 16th, 2015
(Edmonton)**

Basic Electric Estimating

**October 23rd & 24th, 2015
(Calgary)**

Legal Implications

**October 29th & 30th, 2015
(Calgary)**

[PEC Course List & Dates](#)

Upcoming Tradeshows

**2015 Alberta Employment
& Career Fair
October 2nd & 3rd, 2015**

**October 8th, 2015
Grande Prairie, AB**

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Industry News

2015 Alberta Employment & Career Fair. Edmonton Expo Center **October 2nd & 3rd, 2015.** Thank you our volunteers: Brent Connell, John Carson, Dean Ruptash, Billy Williams, Murray Steingard, Pat Barnes, Gordon Badach, John Gullion, Shannon Anderson, Kayla Irven and Jennifer Pierce.

ECAA participated in **Careers the Next Generation Career Expo** October 1st in Fort McMurray held at the Syncrude Sports & Wellness Center at Keyano College. Thank you to Crystal Barter with DC Wiring for volunteering.

Recent City of Edmonton notices in regards to switches requiring bonding conductors connected to device boxes. The ECAA working hard on our members behalf has had conversations and discussions in regards to this issue. City of Edmonton electrical inspectors were noting observations on inspection reports, that they would in the near future be calling for bonding conductors to be installed from device boxes, to the switches that have grounding screws on them, similar to grounding screws on receptacles. After a request for clarification by the ECAA, the City of Edmonton chief electrical inspector, Mr. Gerry Wiles, after consultation with the Provincial chief electrical inspector, Mr. Clarence Cormier, has issued a memo to his Electrical Inspectors. It read that this bonding conductor from box to switches with ground screws would not be required.

ECAA is gathering concerns and questions around the new electrical, building and fire codes which will be organized and presented to the inspectors through the Chief Electrical Inspector for clarification and utility in enforcement & expectation throughout the province. This should facilitate better communication between all inspectors provincially so that code rules are interpreted the same way in each jurisdiction. Members are asked to [email back top five concerns per Code](#) (electrical, building, fire) you are seeking further clarification on. These must

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be received in the ECAA office **no later than October 15th.**

It's official! ECAA has received notification that the new Canadian Electrical Code comes into force January 1st, 2016 and ECAA's "What's New In the 2015 Canadian Electrical Code" Seminar has recognition as an approved course for Safety Codes Officer and Master Electrician renewal. Click on the following [REGISTRATION FORM](#) to sign up. Code Books also available for sale. Click on the following order form to get your copy today. [2015 CODE BOOK ORDER FORM](#)

Minimum wage in Alberta has fallen behind the earnings of Albertans in general. Gradually increasing minimum wage will help reduce staff turnover, improve fairness and help low-income Albertans meet their basic needs. Government will continue to work together with employers to assess the effects of increased minimum wages and plan for the future. **Effective October 1, 2015, the following increases to Alberta's minimum wage rates will take effect:**

- The general minimum wage will increase from \$10.20 to \$11.20 per hour
- The liquor server minimum wage will increase from \$9.20 to \$10.70 per hour
- The weekly minimum wage for certain sales people, land agents and other professionals will increase from \$406.00 to \$446.00
- The monthly minimum wage for domestic workers who live in their employer's residence will rise from \$1,937.00 to \$2,127.00
- Maximum deductions for consumed meals and accommodation provided by an employer are not changing. They will remain at \$3.35 per day for each consumed meal, and \$4.41 per day for lodging provided

Further details on Alberta's new minimum wage rates can be found in the [Minimum Wage fact sheet](#). Please distribute this information to your employees, members and colleagues as you see fit. Employers with questions about minimum wages can contact the Employment Standards Contact Centre at 780-427-3731, or toll-free at 1-877-427-3731 or visit the [Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour website](#).

Grant Ainsley has included [Media Training Resources](#) on his website and in it he answers a number of questions received over the years ranging from How do I get ready for a media interview to How do I do an interview with a reporter? Grant has also added more information called Media Training Tips and Strategies and included [a number of videos](#) where he talks about everything from why companies need policies to protect their brand, to the work he does as a media trainer in Canada. Check it out when you have a few minutes and if you have a question Grant hasn't covered, just [drop him an email](#) and he would be happy to answer it for you.

Nominations are now open for the 2016 COAA Awards, this year on the theme of construction performance. The nomination process is simple and the forms are brief; the deadline for nominations is 12:00 noon on Friday, November 27, 2015. These awards recognize companies and organizations that have provided outstanding leadership to implement, improve and share industry best practices, which have led to measurable advances in quality, productivity, schedule and budget reliability at the project, company or industry level. The awards are presented annually at the COAA Best Practices Conference in May, to celebrate industry leaders and to provide inspiring role models for COAA members and the industry at large. If you know of a firm or an individual who deserves such recognition by their peers, download the Nomination Instructions and Nomination Form at the following link:

<http://www.coaa.ab.ca/information/COAA Awards.aspx>

COAA Associate Members, COAA Supporting members as well as non-member companies may be nominated:

- * Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) firms

- * Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management (EPCM) firms
- * General contractors
- * Sub-contractors and specialty contractors
- * Labour organizations/ providers
- * Other industry associations
- * Extraordinary individuals within the above companies/ organizations

Any best practice, whether developed by COAA or by others, can form the basis of an award. As usual, COAA Principal Members are not eligible for these awards. The nomination process is simple and streamlined - but it does take some time, so get started now! Remember that all nominations require a signature from a senior executive of a COAA Principal Member familiar with the advances in project, company or industry performance. A Flow Chart to guide the process of your nomination is included at the above link. If you have any questions or concerns about the COAA Best Practices Awards or about the nomination process, please contact Larry Staples at larry@coaa.ab.ca.

Reminder: Canadian Fire Alarm Association (CFAA) 2015 Alberta Technical Seminar October 21, 2015, Glenmore Inn & Convention Centre, Calgary. ***Understanding the Changes & Updates and Alberta Technical Seminar & Product Showcase***. For more information [view the event brochure](#) Excellent APD points opportunity for PEC's!!

Reminder: Edmonton Fall Home Show October 23 - 25, 2015, Edmonton Expo Center

Reminder: The 5th annual **Building Magic in the Air Gala is being held on Saturday, October 24th** at the Chateau Lacombe Hotel in Edmonton. You can go online to the Building Magic in the Air Gala event website at <http://foundation.stars.ca/buildingmagicintheairgala> to register and become a sponsor, make a donation, purchase your tickets and get all the details on the event.

Reminder: Energy Services Breakfast to Learn About Accessing Capital. Learning how to master your business from a panel of industry experts. Alberta Oil magazine, MNP, and Shaw Business invite you to network at the Energy Services Breakfast in Calgary on October 7, 2015. Metropolis Conference Center, Calgary AB. Registration 7:30 am and cost \$65 each + GST. For registration and more information click [here](#).

Reminder: Construction Owners Association of Alberta (COAA) Annual General Meeting in Calgary on Wednesday October 14th, 2015, ConocoPhillips Auditorium. To register click [here](#)

BuildForce Canada. Possible opportunity for construction and maintenance sector to participate in a pilot project that would fit within the Economic Action Plan. Economic Action Plan 2015 proposes to provide a one-time investment of \$65 million over four years starting in 2016-2017 to business and industry associations to allow them to work with willing post-secondary institutions to better align curricula with the needs of employers. Contact Rosemary Spark, Executive Director, BuildForce Canada (905) 852-9186 or sparks@buildforce.ca.

BUILDEX CALGARY November 4th & 5th. REGISTRATION OPENS SEPTEMBER 2015. BMO Centre Calgary. BUILDEX Calgary is Alberta's largest tradeshow & conference for the Construction, Renovation, Architecture, Interior Design and Property Management industries. With more than 225 exhibits and over 35 educational seminars, BUILDEX attracts 4,000 attendees annually. For more information visit <http://buildexcalgary.com/>

Coming Soon!

The ECAA is proud to announce a partnership with ESPS Electrical Safety Program Solutions INC. to bring ECAA Member Company's a comprehensive Electrical Safety Program based on the CSA Z462 Workplace electrical safety Standard, to be utilized for sustainable and measurable performance in mitigating

exposure or reducing risk of exposure to arc flash and shock hazards for their workers. Combined with your COR Occupational Health & Safety Management system the Electrical Safety Program will ensure you have in place adequate due diligence to OH&S Regulations.

The Electrical Safety Program will be a valuable resource for Owners, Supervisors and Qualified Electrical Workers in the field, providing access to information when it is needed.

The Electrical Safety Program can be used complimentary to the Electrical Safety Training System (ESTS) Electrical Worker Canada 2015 e-Learning based training that the ECAA currently has available for ECAA Member companies (www.ecaatraining.com).

Attend the following Chapter meetings to learn more: Thursday, October 8th at the Best Western Port O'Call in Calgary and Monday, October 19th at the Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Center in Edmonton. For more information please contact the ECAA Office. More information will be coming soon!!

News from Alberta Construction Association

[ACA Submits Recommendations to the Climate Change Panel](#)

On Friday September 25th, the Alberta Construction Association submitted their recommendations to the Alberta Government's Climate Change Panel. The ACA reinforced to the Government of Alberta that any plan on climate change must take into account differing circumstances of various sectors, and use a variety of approaches to achieve the most cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gases.

We would like to thank the panel for allowing the ACA to deliver our recommendations and look forward to further discussions with the government on the role construction can play for our environment.

You can read the recommendation letter [here](#).

[Smart Infrastructure Funding Important to the ACA](#)

Recently, the Edmonton Journal published an article on government priorities in the fall budget with a special focus on infrastructure funding. In the article the ACA discussed its position that public investment should be increased to help maintain companies when private investment is low.

Executive Director Ken Gibson was quoted "As long as there's a prudent debt management plan that goes along with that, and as long as we're investing in productive infrastructure that incents additional investment and creates sustained employment, that's a good time to do it," Gibson said.

"Investing will help maintain employment in our industry and it will allow for taxpayers to realize reasonable value on those investments."

You can read the full article [here](#).

[The Face of the ACA](#)

We are grateful to all of our members and how they represent us in public and to our elected officials. We appreciate your efforts to represent the construction industry and we would encourage you to continue to use our resources to assist you. These will help you when meeting with local MLAs to support a unified and consistent message to Government.

Resources:

[ACA Public Policies](#)

[Capital Recommendations](#)

Other policy briefs are available by contacting [Jonathan Williams](#) (ACA Policy

Analyst)

Lloydminster Construction Association Honoured With an Education Award

The Lloydminster Construction Association was nominated for the Buffalo Trail Public Schools Friends of Education Award for their continued efforts and ongoing commitment to host, organize and sponsor the Bi-Provincial Try-A-Trade Career Expo. Over the past six years approximately 2,000 grade 10 students from 14 schools have had the opportunity to take part in the event.

The Alberta Construction Association would like to join in congratulating Lloydminster Construction Association on a great job of helping to introduce the next generation to construction.

For more information and news from the Alberta Construction Association visit www.albertaconstruction.net

Apprenticeship Update

AIT Board Recruitment 2015-2016. Recruitment to positions on the Alberta Apprenticeship & Industry Training Board were to begin on September 28, 2015. These positions include both Public Members as well as new board Chair. Vacancy postings have been delayed and a minimum of three weeks for submitting applications will be given from the posting date to the competition closing date (September 28th - October 20th). For more information contact Brian Frevel at 780.427.5811 or brian.frevel@gov.ab.ca

Labour Update

Union Contractors accessing the collective agreement and other union notices are required to sign in and create a member login on the ECAA website. This applies to union ECAA members and non members. If you require assistance please contact the ECAA Provincial Office directly.

SUPERVISOR DISCIPLINE TRAINING PROGRAM. The Electrical Contractors Association Labour Relations Committee is pleased to announce an on-line training program on Supervisor Discipline Training. This program is designed to educate all people working in a unionized workplace on the effective ways to maintain discipline and increase productivity. Methods and skills required to effectively apply progressive discipline and manage undesirable behavior or performance can benefit all levels of employer and union management.

It is available to employers, unions and organizations affiliated with unions of the Building and Construction Trades Department.

ECAA Industry Fund covers the cost for Electrical Contractors signed to a Collective Agreement in Alberta with the IBEW. To apply for this program go to www.ecaalrctraining.com

This correspondence was sent on behalf of Brian Halina, ECAA Labour Relations Committee Chair

Board of Directors Update

Detailed reports in Issue 3 of Contactor. Next Board meeting Friday, October 23rd, 2015. Reminder: New ECAA Logo launch in Edmonton, Tuesday, December 8th (Members invited to join Provincial Board at Open House); Calgary, Thursday, December 10th at the Calgary Chapter Christmas social. More information to follow!

Have something to say?

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

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY:

Next Meeting is Thursday, October 8th, with **Guest Speakers:** Terry Becker presenting on the new Electrical Safety Program "Product in a Box". Jeremiaiah Morrison, SAIT presenting on SAIT's Pre-Employment Program.

CENTRAL: Meeting held on September 24th, 2015, on behalf of Chapter President Darcy Teichroeb thank you to the members and guests who attended.

EDMONTON:

Next meeting Monday, October 19th. Guest speakers: Terry Becker, on the new Electrical Safety Program "Product in a Box; Sun Life Insurance and David Morris Fine Cars. Thank you to all who made the Horse Races such a successful evening. Join Chapter members for a evening of darts on October 21st at the Kingsway Legion.

FORT MCMURRAY: Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at the Chateau Nova Airport.

LETHBRIDGE: Next meeting scheduled for October 14th at the Lethbridge Lodge. Presenter Ken Forbes, City of Lethbridge.

NORTH EAST: Meeting will be held in Bonnyville on October 20th. Code seminar moved to Centennial Centre in Bonnyville on October 21st.

NORTH WEST: Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 30th . Thank you to the members who attended, the new members who were presented their plaques, and the contractors who became members that evening. Presentation made to new PEC Brandon Thoma.

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AT THE 2016 ECAA TRAINING DAY!

This is your last chance to submit a proposal to speak at the 2016 ECAA Training Day, taking place May 27th, 2016 at the Marriott River Cree, Edmonton.

We are looking for experts on **Alternative Energy** (*Wind Turbines, Energy Storage, Geothermal and Electric Vehicle Information*) **New Technology** (*Smart Grid, Journeyman Mentoring, LED Advancement; Microgrid*) **Codes & Standards**(*Understanding Standata, Section 10 & 14, Selective Coordination, Counterfeiting CSA*) to step forward and share their expertise with the 200+ professionals and students who are eager to learn and grow.

Our content will focus on three tracks: Alternative Energy; New Technology and Codes & Standards

If you would like to present or have a suggestion for a speaker on any of the above, please email PEC Education Committee Chair Larry Cantelo (lcantelo55@gmail.com) or Sheri McLean (smclean@ecaa.ab.ca)

APD Points! A friendly reminder that if you are a PEC approved prior to 2013, your first cycle ends **December 31, 2015**, and will need to have **60 points**. Any

questions or assistance needed regarding tracking and logging your APD points contact the ECAA Provincial Office.

Continuing Education

Registrations are being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2015 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.

[2015-2016 PEC COURSE REGISTRATION FORM](#)

Assessing & Finalizing the Tender October 15th & 16th, 2015 (Edmonton) 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.

(COURSE FULL: Wait List in Effect) Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE) October 23rd & 24th, 2015 (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).

Legal Implications October 29th & 30th, 2015 (Calgary).

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.

ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE THROUGH ECAA.

www.ecaatraining.com

Arc Flash & Shock Electrical Safety Training based on CSA Z462-2015 Developed for workers that perform energized electrical work. The course curriculum is based on the 3rd edition of CSA Z462, published in 2015. The overall course content was developed using industry accepted best practice standards as the under pinning in support of meeting Provincial or Federal regulatory due diligence for arc flash and shock.

ESTS Electrical Worker training is focused on the practical application of CSA Z462 within the workplace and providing documentation tools in support of the Employer's overall Occupational Health & Safety Management System and an Electrical Safety Program. Employers are required to have an updated Electrical Safety Program that incorporates the new requirements from CSA Z462-2015 for workers to receive the most benefit from this course.

The ESTS Electrical Worker course is broken down into five sections for ease of use. Workers should self-pace themselves based on their understanding of the subject matter. All workers are encouraged to stop and start their course by saving their progress before exiting. At any time during the course workers can ask questions to an Instructor and follow along using a comprehensive Student Workbook as a training aid.

Students who score 80% or greater earn their training certificate and can apply for 0.6 Continuing Education Units (CEU's). Final assessment questions are fully randomized so Workers never have the same exact questions.

Electrical Worker Training Modules:

1. Introduction
2. Regulations, Consensus-based Standards and Best Practices
3. Understanding Electricity in the Workplace
4. Electrical Hazards: Understanding the Potential for Harm
5. Risk Assessment Procedure
6. Establishing an Electrically Safe Work Condition
7. Engineering and Administrative Controls
8. Electrical Specific PPE, Tools and Equipment
9. Emergency Response, Incident Reporting and Program Maintenance
10. Final Assessment & Work Task Scenarios

Learning Objectives for Qualified Electrical Workers:

1. Explain the Regulations and Standards applicable to their role and responsibilities.
2. Identify and understand electrical hazards and risk assessment.
3. Effectively manage electrical hazards by following the Work Flow Process to safely execute energized electrical work.
4. Learn how to complete an Arc Flash Risk Assessment and Shock Risk Assessment as part of an overall Risk Assessment Procedure (RAP).
5. Apply preventive and protective control measures to reduce risk.
6. Understand electrical incident emergency response and incident reporting requirements

The ESTS Electrical Worker training course was developed by Terry Becker, P.Eng., ESPS Electrical Safety Program Solutions INC. and ESPS is partnering with the ECAA to bring this training to Members.

To purchase this training course visit www.ecaatraining.com

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**

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.ecaatraining.com (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, November 6th, 2015.



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