



ECAA

Electrical Contractors
Association of Alberta

THE SPARK

ECAA NEWSLETTER

December 2, 2016

Issue 70

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EDMONTON

December 16, 2016 (FULL)

December 19, 2016

January 14, 2017

February 15, 2017

March 16, 2017

April 21, 2017

Welcome to ECAA's E-Newsletter, The Spark!

This e-newsletter was created to keep members and industry informed on the Association's activities and upcoming events in a timely manner.

President's Message

Another December is upon us. For many, December is the holiday season. All the best to you and your family. What ever your faith please take some time to cherish those who you love. Give thanks for all you have been blessed with. We live in the best country in the world.



The US election is finally over. Congratulations President Elect Trump. Maybe now we will get the Keystone pipeline. Let us hope President Trump treats Canada and Alberta like the great neighbours we are.

I would like to dedicate my report this month to our upcoming Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta Convention and Annual General Meeting. This event will be held in Banff at the Rimrock Resort May 25-28 2017. Golf on May 25th, Training Day on the 26th, AGMs on the 27th, Gala on the Saturday night and Sunday breakfast with a guest speaker.

Sheri, her staff and my wife Elsie have been working very hard to make this Convention an incredible event.

The Canadian Electrical Contractor Association (CECA) has agreed to participate. That makes this a national event.

If all goes well, we will be golfing at the Banff Springs Golf Course.

CALGARY
February 9, 2017

[Canadian Electrical Code
Update Registration Form](#)

PEC COURSES

[2017 PEC Registration Form](#)

COURSES

Blue Print Reading
March 10th & 11th, 2017
(Calgary)

Blue Print Reading
March 23rd & 24th, 2017
(Edmonton)

MEETINGS

See you in the New Year!

January 10th, 2017
Fort McMurray Chapter

January 11th, 2017
Lethbridge Chapter

January 12th, 2017
Calgary Chapter

January 16th, 2017
Edmonton Chapter

SOCIALS

Calgary Christmas Social
December 8th, 2016

ECAA Christmas Open House
December 15th, 2016

**Edmonton Chapter
President's Ball**
January 21st, 2017

[Join Our List](#)

On Friday night we will be at Brewster's Mountview Barbecue - This facility is a corporate event and reception facility that furnishes a truly western experience. They will serve a hearty, buffet-style meal of the famous Brewster BBQ hip of Beef. Bring your Western gear for a great time.

Looks like our Keynote speaker will be Robin Esrock the International Bestselling Author, Speaker, TV Host.

We have arranged to have Trevor Panzack's band play for us at the Gala and at the Mountview Barbecue. That is the band that played at Waterton and Copper Point AGMs.

The training day offerings are getting close to be finalized. This will be a great event. I hope you can attend. I know it will be a lot of fun.

Our next Provincial board meeting will occur on December 15th. For those attending please dress your best as this will be picture day. We invite our members to join us for some Christmas cheer beginning at 3:00 pm.

ECAA Chapter meetings are being scheduled across the province. Please make the effort to attend.

Thanks again to Sheri and her staff for all their hard work.

In conclusion I would like to quote - Olin Miller

"If you want to make an easy job seem mighty hard, just keep putting off doing it."

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Darrell Castor, CME, PEC.
Provincial President

Did you Know?

As the owner of an Electrical Contracting business have you taken appropriate action to ensure you protect your workers and can meet your client's requirements related to arc flash and shock hazard management?

ECAA Feature Benefit

Electrical Safety Program "Product in a Box"

As an ECAA member benefit you have access to a complete licensed Electrical Safety Management system. The initial license fee is complimentary with ECAA membership.

Join Our Mailing List!

Contact us to find out more.

Industry News

ECAA is happy to announce that we have finally launched our online event website! Tickets for the upcoming Edmonton Chapter President's Ball will be available for purchase online! Join Edmonton Chapter President Shani Ahmad and his Executive on Saturday, January 21st, 2017, at the Chateau Lacombe Hotel in Edmonton. **Registration for upcoming Code Seminars** also available online!

[Click here to be directed to our event site.](#)

ECAA Christmas Open House December 15th, 2016. On behalf of Provincial President Darrell Castor, PEC and the ECAA Board of Directors we invite you to our Christmas Open House from 3:00pm - 6:30 pm. [Christmas Open House Invitation](#)

Invoices will be emailed out prior to the Christmas break in December for your 2017 ECAA Membership Dues.

Keyano College is offering a Masters course in Fort McMurray starting January 10, 2017, Tuesday, Thursday from 6-9 pm and Saturday from 8-3pm. ILM Modules and computer question bank: \$ 325.00; Study guide \$250.00 (This price might be subject to GST and exam costs not included.)

Course code: CEMELEC 100; Dates: Jan 10 - Mar 2; Cost: \$1498 + 74.75 GST (due at time of registration).*** 12 students needed to run the program or it will be canceled. Contact the Office of the Registrar for more information: 780.791.4801.

Congratulations to ECAA RAP (Registered Apprenticeship Program) scholarship recipients. On Friday, November 18th Brandon Paziuk and Justin Wishard were recognized at the **16th Annual RAP and Career & Technology Studies Scholarship celebration** in Edmonton. Brandon's employer was CMN Electrical; Justin's was Edmonton Electric. Brandon attends Archbishop O'Leary High School while Justin is a student at W.P. Wagner High School. In total 39 scholarships were awarded to students across the province in the electrician trade, congratulations to all and a big thank you to our electrical contractors for supporting this important program.

COAA Members and Friends: This is a reminder that the deadline for submitting your nomination is noon MST, on **Thursday, December 8, 2016**. This year's theme is Safety Leadership. If you know of a firm or an individual who deserves such recognition by their peers, please nominate them. These Awards recognize companies and organizations which have provided outstanding leadership in developing, implementing and improving industry best practices, which have led to measurable advances in project, company or industry performance. The awards are presented annually at the Best Practices Conference in May to celebrate industry leaders and to provide inspiring role models for COAA Members and the industry at large.

All information, forms and relevant documents can be found at: <http://www.coaa.ab.ca/information/COAA Awards.aspx>. 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 or by

phone at 780.420.1145 x 231.

Convergent Technologies is a global, service-based integrator with a dedicated focus in electronic security, fire alarm and life safety, mass notification, communications, building automation, and healthcare technologies. Delivering value through unparalleled customer service and operational excellence has been foundational at Convergent. Our promise, and our number one objective, is to be our customers' best service provider. **We are currently looking for smaller agile electrical contractors to become part of our integrated deliver team.** If you are interested please contact Larry, General Manager at 780-452-9800; 587-340-9200; larry.fox@convergent.com

ACE Red Seal Prep course in Edmonton is February 6-11, 2017. Contact ECAA (ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca) for special member rates.

Alberta Chamber of Resources - Registration open for ACR's Annual General Meeting and Awards Banquet on February 3, 2017 at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton. The AGM promises to be a unique and inspiring opportunity following the theme of "Preparing for a Changing Future." Additional details on the morning will be forthcoming. Awards Banquet to follow to celebrate ACR and resource development in our province. At the banquet this year:

- The evening will proudly recall the challenges and successes of our past years and offer a vision for the future.
- Two awards will be given out this year: Resource Leader of the Year and Indigenous Leader of the Year.
- The ACR is offering members the opportunity to participate in the Student Sponsorship program which gives young people with an interest in resource development careers the opportunity to sit with ACR members. Students from the various Alberta post-secondary educational institutions are waiting to be sponsored. You can do this when you register online. If you would like more than one student at your table, please call our office.
- The cost for the AGM is \$100 (+ GST) per person.
- The cost for the Banquet is \$195 (+ GST) per person. A discount is available for those who purchase a table of 8 at cost of \$175 (+GST) per person, a savings of \$20.00 on each seat.

For your convenience, you can register on-line at www.acr-alberta.com/ConferencesEvents/tabid/220/Default.aspx using VISA or MasterCard. The deadline to register is January 25, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Thea Hawryluk at (780) 420-1030 ext. 222 or by email at thea@acr-alberta.com.

Sponsorship Opportunities available for 2017 ECAA Convention & Technical Training Day (May 25th - 28th, 2017)
[ECAA 55th Anniversary Convention Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

Board of Directors Update

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 15th. Board members will have reports for Issue IV of the Contactor, which will be mailed prior to the Christmas break. Industry, members and guests

are encouraged to drop by the ECAA office from 3:00 - 6:30 to network and partake in some fellowship. Food Bank donations welcome!

We have been provided an opportunity to partner with Edmonton Fire and Rescue in a media campaign which we hope will happen on this day as well. Invoices for 2017 membership dues will be emailed this year. ECAA office will be closed at 2:30 December 23rd and reopen at 8:00 on Tuesday, January 2nd.

On behalf of President Darrell Castor, the Provincial Board and ECAA staff wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season. Donations will be made to local food banks in lieu of sending Christmas cards.

Labour Update

With the downturn in our economy, reduced new construction projects and subsequent challenges to be competitive, the IBEW and ECAA Union Contractors have agreed to reductions in labour costs. Our non-union competitors were first out of the gate to drastically reduce the wages of their employees and reduce, or in some cases eliminate, benefits such as RRSP and Health Plan Benefits.

The IBEW is cooperating diligently in these times of fierce competition within our industry. In addition to direct hourly cost reductions our Industry Education Trust Fund and ECAA Union Contractors Industry Fund are funding "Job Ready" initiatives such as site orientations and safety training programs. This will expedite job entry and reduce client and contractor costs.

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY: Last call to purchase tickets for the Calgary Christmas social on Thursday, December 8th. Join President Brian Reed and the Chapter executive in meeting their goal to raise \$2500 in donations and 5 bins of food for the Calgary food bank. Thank you to all who have purchased tickets for this event and to those who have donated silent auction items. Next chapter meeting Thursday, January 12th.

EDMONTON: Over 120 contractors and guests attended the presentation and Chapter meeting on Monday, November 21st. Thank you to Dave Heimstra, Optics Lighting and Jaye Jonnson, EECOL for the very information presentations on the New Energy Code and the introduction into solar photovoltaic. Next meeting Monday, January 16th. Join Chapter President Shani Ahmad, his wife Hilde and invited guests at the Edmonton Chapter President's Ball on Saturday, January 21st. Tickets on sale now.

FORT McMURRAY: Next meeting Tuesday, January 10th at the Best Western on Taiga Nova Crescent.

LETHBRIDGE: Next meeting Wednesday, January 11th at the Sandman Lethbridge Lodge. Troy Mills, Gescan Lethbridge refreshment sponsor. **Guest Speaker:** Lethbridge Mayor, Chris Spearman

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

NEW PEC Ring Design approved. Keep an eye out for an updated order form that will be emailed out. **Reminder that the original PEC Ring will only be available for order until December 31st, 2016.**

A Primer on Energy Storage

For many years we have been hearing the virtues of green power, renewable energy and the like. There is no doubt about the positives that come from reductions in greenhouse gas production. What is often not discussed as part of the renewable energy discussions are the shortfalls that come with renewable energy production. It goes without saying that a solar photovoltaic (PV) array only produces power when the sun is shining, a wind turbine only produces power when the wind is blowing and a turbine at the bottom of the sea only produces power when the tide is rising or falling.

Often times the maximum demand on the power grid occurs when renewable energy is not being produced at all or at very low levels. As an example, with our Alberta climate, peak demand in residential applications typically occurs between 5 and 7 pm when people are cooking supper, doing laundry, etc. A solar array on a dwelling will not produce any energy during the 5-7 pm time frame during December as an example. This means the grid still has to provide maximum power to meet customer demand.

Fortunately, technology is advancing to address this issue. In many countries energy storage systems are being constructed to provide an interface between maximum production and peak demand. There are numerous technologies in existence to store energy. One of these technologies is the use of very large battery banks. The advancements in battery technology to meet the needs of electric vehicles has helped make battery storage a viable option for energy storage installations. In the broad sense, battery storage installations are electrical work. Hopefully some day soon we will see large battery installations become part of the energy landscape in Alberta. That would provide new opportunities for our electrical contractors. That would be good news indeed.

At training day 2017 I am hoping to have a presentation on energy storage on the agenda.

See you there!

Yours in education,

Larry Cantelo, PEC

Education Standing Committee Chair

Application form is on the ECAA website (www.ecaa.ab.ca). To ensure you can continue to be part of the PEC family, please fill out the form and become a retired PEC member. [Retired Membership Application](#)

News from Alberta Construction Association

[ACA Updates Public Policies](#)

ACA has updated its Public Policies. The Public Policies, available at [our website](#), educate stakeholders of industry views. A number of our policies are new or updated.

The Policies are organized under 5 headings:

- 1 General Statements
- 2 Free Trade
- 3 Infrastructure
- 4 Industry Practices
- 5 Human Resources

Under Industry Practices, the Board approved a new policy entitled "Social Procurement / Community Benefits" as follows:

"ACA is opposed to using the procurement of construction services to advance unrelated community benefits and other public policy objectives where they jeopardize the integrity of the competitive bid system".

Social procurement is being discussed at all levels of Government. Federally, the Canadian Construction Association has testified on Bill C-227, An Act to amend the Department of Public Works and Government Services Act (community benefit), currently being reviewed by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities.

Ontario's Bill 6 (Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2015) includes the following planning principle: "Infrastructure planning and investment should promote community benefits, being the supplementary social and economic benefits arising from an infrastructure project that are intended to improve the well-being of a community affected by the project, such as local job creation and training opportunities (including for apprentices, within the meaning of section 9), improvement of public space within the community, and any specific benefits identified by the community."

Here in Alberta, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has approved Adoption of a Social Procurement Framework. The Alberta Government's current Procurement Policy Review is, among other outcomes, seeking to encourage "fair treatment of Alberta businesses and Alberta workers".

In representing industry, ACA Vice Chair Chris Ambrozic has cited the ACA Policy and urged the Alberta Government to utilize standardized contracts to promote fairness and provide opportunity for firms with limited means to retain legal counsel to review non-standard, potentially onerous commercial contracts. He further urged that tender documents and processes be clear with defined measurables to ensure fair, transparent bidding and objective evaluation. Without clarity and objectivity, tender authorities risk perceptions of unfairness and open themselves to potential litigation.

ACA looks forward to continued discussions with governments to ensure sanctity of the bidding process.

[Alberta Government Releases Second Quarter Update](#)

The 2016-17 deficit is forecast to be \$10.8 billion, a \$78-million decrease since the first quarter, as reported in the [Second Quarter Fiscal Update and Economic Statement](#). The deficit is \$449 million higher than estimated at

budget, due to the impact of the Wood Buffalo wildfire and other factors.

2016-17 Second quarter forecast (\$ millions)

Full-year forecast	Budget 2016-17	Q2 forecast	Change from Budget
Income taxes	\$15,730	\$15,027	\$(703)
Non-renewable resource revenue	1,364	2,124	760
Other revenue	24,341	25,547	1,206
Total revenue	41,435	42,698	1,263
Operating expense (net of in-year)	44,094	44,650	556
Disaster/emergency assist expense	246	1,276	1,030
Other expense	6,757	6,883	126
Total expense	51,097	52,809	1,712
Risk adjustment	(700)	(700)	-
Deficit	\$(10,362)	\$(10,811)	\$(449)

6-Month Actuals (\$ millions)

April 1 to September 30	Budget	Actuals	Change from Budget
Revenue	\$20,506	\$22,109	\$1,603
Expense	25,939	26,987	1,048
Deficit	\$(5,433)	\$(4,878)	\$555

[ACA Welcomes the Masonry Contractors Association of Alberta](#)

ACA welcomes the Masonry Contractors Association of Alberta as an associate member.

ACA appreciates the expertise of the MCAA to help inform ACA policies and guide the organization. One example is MCAA contribution to the silica practices. ACA appreciates the leadership of ACA Vice Chair Chris Ambrozic (Scorpio Masonry) for facilitating dialogue between MCAA and ACA.

ACA effectiveness as the umbrella voice for Alberta's construction industry is enhanced by the important addition of MCAA.

MCAA joins an outstanding group of associates: Alberta Roofing Contractors Association, Construction Labour Relations, Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta, Mechanical Contractors Association of Alberta, Merit Contractors, Progressive Contractors Association, and Sheet Metal Contractors Association of Alberta.

[ACA Shares Concerns With WCB Review Committee](#)

On November 16-17th ACA Executive Director Ken Gibson and Safety WCB committee member Dave Hagan participated at a meeting for the WCB Review. They expressed concerns to the WCB Review committee over process and progress of the review so far.

During the meeting, ACA argued:

- Against WCB benefits including salary or career progression in the review consultations
- We also disagreed with expanding presumptive coverage as it contradicts requirement for WCB to make evidence based decisions
- Opposed adding requirement to accommodate to the WCB Act. The appropriate dispute resolution mechanism is under human rights legislation
- No fault should not apply to post-incident behaviours and TTD should not apply if the worker actions remove themselves from the course of employment
- That Appeals Commission should only rule on the specifics of the appeal, and not be wide open in its decisions
- The Employer Appeals Advisors should be independent of the WCB
- The need for in-person multi stakeholder consultation on policy development and review
- For the retention of PIR incentives and experience rating at the WCB Review

The committee is preparing its report in January 2017 for the government.

For more news and events visit www.albertaconstruction.net

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) Courses

Registrations are being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2017.

[2017 PEC Course Schedule and Registration](#)

Legal Implications (Dentons Law Firm) Thursday, February 9th & Friday, February 10th, 2017, (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.

ECAA Courses

BLUE PRINT READING (Instructor Larry Cantelo, PEC)

Friday, March 10th & Saturday, March 12th, 2017 (Calgary)

Thursday, March 23rd & Friday, March 24th, 2017 (Edmonton)

On many projects, especially large ones, many electricians and apprentices have very little opportunity to spend much time reading the blueprints. This, despite the fact that the ability to effectively navigate through a set of prints is an essential skill for any tradesperson. This twelve-hour course is intended for both people who have a limited amount of blueprint reading experience and for those who want to brush up on their skills. The bulk of the time in this course will be spent reading commercial blueprints and answering a series of quizzes pertaining to them. A series of short lectures will supplement the print-reading exercises. A brief introduction to specifications will also be provided as part of the course. At the end of the course participants will have the option to purchase the textbooks and blueprints used throughout the course.

CALGARY - Blue Print Reading Course Registration Form

EDMONTON - Blue Print Reading Course Registration Form

Online Training

ECAA has launched the following new courses to our training website.

Along with the Ethics and ESTS Electrical Worker Training on CSA Z462 we have added:

- ESTS Electrical Worker USA 2015
- ESTS Non-Electrical Worker Canada and USA 2015
- Bear Awareness Online Training
- Confined Space Pre-Entry Online Training
- Fire Safety Awareness
- Ground Disturbance Online Training - Supervisory 3.0
- H2S Awareness Online Training 2.0
- Hazard Awareness Online Training 2.0
- TDG Online Training 3.0
- WHMIS 2015 Online Training
- Defensive Driving - 3 Demerit Reduction Online Training (Alberta Only)
- Defensive Driving Condensed Online Training (CDN Version)
- Fatigue Management for Senior Administrators and Supervisors Online Training
- Fatigue Management: Driving Drowsy - Taking Responsibility Online Training
- Professional Drive Improvement Course Online Training - 3 Demerit Reduction (Alberta Only)

Start your training today on www.ecaatraining.com

ONLINE TRAINING

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 underpinning 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).

Contact Us

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 its important to us. Please submit any comments to smclean@ecaa.ab.ca

The next issue of The Spark will be emailed on January 13, 2016.



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