



**ECAA**

Electrical Contractors  
Association of Alberta

# CONTACTOR

*“Voice of the Electrical Industry in the Province of Alberta”*



*Wishing you*  
**Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year**

*Now more than ever may your holiday season be filled  
with good health and prosperity in the New Year.*

# President's Message

Well here we are in our final month of 2020 and what a year it has been! A year of abnormal situations and circumstances to say the least. Covid has wreaked havoc with absolutely every aspect of people's lives, whether it be business or recreation. It has put severe pressure on the economy and has forced all of us to try and do more with less. The ECAA has not been immune to the financial impacts, as we to have had to tighten our belts and try and find viable ways of communicating, etc., without breaking the bank. To that point, this is the first and only issue of the Contactor in 2020 as we have been making every effort to be fiscally responsible. With that said, we did want to reach out here in December and touch base with everyone. As we all prepare to bring in 2021 it is important that we look back and reflect on some of the brighter moments of 2020 and in doing so, perhaps quietly celebrate our resilience and tenacity together.



Tim Brundage

I would like to thank Terry Barnett and the Provincial Board for all of their hard work and dedication. Terry did an amazing job as Provincial President and has continued to participate and volunteer his time as 'Past President' since handing over the reins back in June. I would also like to revisit our congratulations to Tim Fehr for joining the Executive as Secretary and thank him for his time and dedication including a number of years as the President of the Lethbridge Chapter. Though I did mention it in the Spark, it has to be mentioned again, what a great job Sheri McLean and her team (Camille, Christine and Dorothy) have done in providing the technical support and leadership over the past six months. They had to provide new ways of not only hosting the 2020 AGM and Training Day, but all of the various courses, Chapter Meetings, Board Meetings and Legislative appointments as well. What an amazing effort!

To speak of another great accomplishment in 2020, we must thank Terry Milot for all of his efforts on helping bring the Prompt Payment Legislation to life as it has now passed its third reading in Parliament! Terry, along with a host of others have worked tirelessly over the years to present their case to a number of different governmental parties in order to get this to where it is today. It would have been far easier to give up and throw in the towel, but I believe this clearly illustrates this Association's tenacity to never let up. Thank you again Terry for a job well done!

Much must be said about the efforts of Darcy Teichroeb, PEC and Lou Hiemer, PEC as they continue to work on the new Professional Master Electrician (PM Elec) designation initiative. There has been a great deal of work accomplished thus far and they are currently in discussions with the Minister of Labour. As you know, this is a drawn out process with the influx of new business being put upon Minister Copping and his team in light of the recent 'Stay at Home' Covid challenges.

There are many other great initiatives taking place, so I would encourage you to all stay involved, whether updates through the Spark e-newsletter, Chapter meetings, or upcoming training courses. Your participation is encouraged as you really are what makes the difference when it comes to being the voice of the electrical industry. I would also encourage all of you to plan on attending our AGM next May as we continue to work the final details in hosting at the Pomeroy in Kananaskis! How great will that be, if we are all able to attend in person. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we receive the necessary vaccine or that the curve flattens and declines to the point that all of the current restrictions are lifted.

Thank you again to everyone who gives of their time, including all our Members and Associates. Thank you all for the opportunity to represent you and the Board. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Stay safe and stay tuned.

## Chapter Reports

### Calgary Chris Jardine

I hope my report finds everyone well, I would like to thank all our Chapter members and Executive members for their continuing support as we learn to live in the new "normal" and learn to co-exist in our community and work environment. As we continue to adapt to social distancing and virtual meetings, we remain focused on providing value to our members and our community.

Despite our lack of in person meetings we have been able to host some informative virtual presentations. I have enjoyed



the content and was very impressed the presenters. We have heard from Terry Becker on CSA Z462 Arc flash, the dangers and new rules that are coming. Cathy Whyte from Sunlife/ Canwest Insurance on employee health benefits and the savings we may be missing out on through our current benefit providers. Our November meeting presenter was Scott from Powerco, with the support of Prolux Lighting gave us all some great information on options for LED's and LED task lighting.

Our meetings have obviously been shorter, without dinner, a bar and no in person mingling. It is a shame that we are missing out on our monthly gatherings and I truly hope that the new year will bring us the opportunities we all took for granted prior to this year. Our first meeting in September was held at Greta in downtown Calgary, we had over 30 attendees and we had fun playing arcade games and eating good food. Our October meeting was a sign of things to come; in person attendance was low but we were able to have members connect via Zoom. November was a fully virtual meeting and December will be the same, with Federal Metals as our guest speaker.

## Central Darcy Teichroeb, PEC

The Central Chapter held a virtual meeting on September 30, 2020 where we had 11 guests and members participate. The meeting agenda covered the available insurance options offered to the ECAA from the Sunlife/Canwest insurance group.

The members enjoyed a presentation from Scott Lee on Sinewave Filtering for VFD Powered Electric Motors and MTE Sinewave Nexus Filters. The presentation was very informative and relative to our contractors. I would like to thank Scott for his presentation.

The members also enjoyed a presentation from Braeden Peterson on Efficient Predictive Maintenance using



Infrared Thermography. This presentation was also very informative and relative to our contractors. I would like to thank Braeden for his presentation.

I continued to update the members with current activities of the ECAA Association including the effects of the current pandemic on association operations. I introduced our new Member Relations member, Don Kuziw. New contractor member Sehlstrom Electric (Dallas Sehlstrom) and new Journey Person Associate Sean Fyles-Duggan were acknowledged and welcomed to the Chapter. I want to thank the members who attended for their time and participation.

I would also like to wish everyone a safe and prosperous holiday season.

## Edmonton Jason Kuziw

Christmas is almost here! Hopefully, this offers some of us some time to catch a much-needed break and some spare time to prepare for another New Year. This holiday season things will be a lot different than they have been in previous years, but with a vaccine on the horizon, we can all hope and pray that life as we knew it can slowly return to normal. Most importantly, I know that many of us would love to put 2020 in the rear-view mirror.

We have not had an in-person chapter meeting this season, but instead, have adapted our meeting format to be hosted over zoom. Thus far, I believe we are all getting more familiarized with the zoom format, and even though most of us would prefer an in-person meeting, the zoom format provides us with a safe and convenient alternative. Our Executive has been meeting separately in person at the ECAA provincial office prior to the chapter meetings hosted over zoom, which gives us an opportunity to discuss issues arising in greater detail. We will continue to take this approach with our meetings for the foreseeable future.

Our second chapter meeting of the season via zoom was on October 19th, 2020. We had 40 members and guests in attendance. During the meeting, the Edmonton Chapter was introduced to Communities of Practice via a brief workshop. Because of the level of interest, and also due to time constraints during the chapter meeting, we had a follow-up virtual lunch and learn Communities of Practice workshop on November 18th, 2020. Our Spotlight Associates for the October 19th meeting were Flir, and Phoenix Lighting. We also had the opportunity to hear a success story about the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) from Ryline Monkman of Careers.



The Next Generation. Our last chapter meeting was hosted on zoom on November 16th, 2020. We welcomed 32 Chapter members and guests, and our spotlight associates were LSW Lighting and Powerco.

I am proud of our spotlight associates for their involvement with our Chapter, and for keeping us informed of the latest technology trends in our industry. They have worked very diligently to ensure their presentations over zoom are engaging, and I believe they have been very successful in presenting in a virtual setting. Our spotlight associates have been adaptive and resilient and have become an integral part of our chapter meetings as they are hosted virtually via zoom. On behalf of the Edmonton Chapter,

I would like to especially thank the following presenters: Braden Peterson, Flir (Efficient Predictive Maintenance using Infrared Thermography – October 19th, 2020); Tim Hydzik, Phoenix Lighting (Durability by Design – October 19th, 2020); Michael Gonzalez, LSW Lighting (Simple Cost-Effective Solutions for NECB 2017 Lighting Requirements – November 16, 2020) and Scott Lee, Powerco (Sinewave Filtering for VFD Motors – November 16th, 2020).

Due to social gathering restrictions, our Provincial Office will not be hosting a Christmas Open house this year. Instead, we are encouraging our Chapter members to help us support individuals and families in need this Christmas by donating to the Edmonton Food bank online, or by dropping off non-perishable food items at the Provincial Office. For this initiative, we find ourselves in competition with the Calgary Chapter – once again. Although we are unsure of what the outcome of the wager could be, I know that we must not lose, as it will likely result in my having to wear an infamous sport coat littered with Calgary Flames logos at the next Provincial in-person AGM, or perhaps worse.

Right now, there is one rule, and one rule only – we must not donate to our own charities. Please help us support our community, and also my Edmonton Oilers pride by donating online (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/ecaa-edmonton-chapter-food-bank-donations/>) or at the Provincial Office.

Our next chapter meeting will be hosted virtually over zoom on January 18, 2021. We are pleased to announce that we will be engaging with EPCOR, Inspections Group, and the City of Edmonton to help answer your questions as they relate to permits and inspections. Once again, we are looking for your feedback as it relates to how things are going with this process in your realm. If you have not received a permits and inspections survey, please contact Camille Austin at the Provincial Office.

There seems to be a spirit of hope and promise on the horizon as it relates to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are very much looking forward to having a chance to reconnect during an in-person meeting at some point in 2021. In the meantime, we will continue to grow and find more creative means to reach

## Fort McMurray

Daniel Kudrewko, PEC

Two hybrid meetings were held this fall. The September meeting had Associate Spotlight speakers Cathy Whyte (SunLife), Kevin Shephard (Wesco), and Cooper Zappacosta (Leviton). Cathy delivered a zoom presentation on ECAA's enhanced benefit plan. Kevin presented on LED in Action – Rugged Products for Harsh Environments. Cooper on Lumina RF – Scalable Lighting Controls for Commercial applications. Clark Redden, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo provided an inspection update and Patricia Luedee provided an update on behalf of Keyano College on instruction delivery and course offerings. Jason Fisher, Fisk Energy was welcomed as a new member. Unfortunately, due to covid the annual golf tournament was cancelled.



Thank you to Tim Hydzik, Phoenix Lighting for sponsoring the November meeting. Associate Spotlight speakers were Tim Hydzik, Durability by Design who attended meeting in person. Scott Lee and Harkirat Deol, Powerco, delivered a presentation via zoom on Online and Offline Motor Protection. Clark Redden indicated the Electrical Inspectors Association of Alberta (EIAA) will hold their annual conference virtually in February 2021. Chapter meetings in the new year will move to the 2nd Tuesday of the month with a 6:00 start time. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12th.

On behalf of the Fort McMurray chapter, wishing all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Lethbridge

Edgar Garcia, ME

First, I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity given to me to be a part of the Provincial Board as the Lethbridge Chapter President. I am honored and looking forward to serving for the next year and a half. I hope to represent the Lethbridge Chapter as well as our past Chapter Presidents. I also would like to thank Tim Fehr for his service and dedication to the Chapter and wish him all the best at the Provincial Board as a Treasurer.

As we all know 2020 has been a unique and challenging year for everyone and this was no exception for our Lethbridge Chapter. Our Chapter has been planning a Charity Golf Tournament since 2019 for the Children's Wish Foundation which had to be postponed to 2021, hoping to reconvene the planning of the Golf Tournament in the new year.

Our last meeting was held on October 7th via Zoom Video, considering the circumstances it was a success, we had 17 members and guest in attendance. We had a presentation by Cathy Whyte from Sunlife Insurance who provided us with valuable information regarding an Enhance Group Benefit Plan for ECAA Members. We Also had a presentation by Tim Hydzik from Phoenix Lighting who presented us with their innovative products that withstand extreme environments.

our membership in a virtual setting. Both our team at the Provincial Office, and the Provincial Board have done an excellent job in finding and selecting virtual content and training for our members that is timely and engaging. Our spotlight associates have done extremely well in delivering informative and engaging presentations within a zoom setting. To all of our Chapter members – please continue providing us with your feedback. We are all in this together. Our Edmonton Chapter Executive wants to hear what you have to say. Please raise your voice, as this helps us confidently meet your expectations, and provide you with the content and information that you need – when you need it the most. Our association, the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta, is the voice and information centre of the electrical industry in the province of Alberta. We encourage and thank you for your continued support and engagement to help us accomplish our mission.

This Christmas have a safe and merry holiday season. May God bless your businesses and your families.

Our Professional Associate, Dale Krall P-Eng. reported that they are seeing an increase of proposals which means good news for contractors as we should be seeing more RFQ's and RFP's coming our way. Will Hillary – Senior Electrical Engineer for the City of Lethbridge provided us with utility updates on service wire locations. We are glad of their continued involvement in our chapter meetings.

We finally had our first shift forward rotation of our Executive Board; the new position of Secretary had to be blended with the Treasurer as we had no nominations at that time. We now have a nomination and are waiting for approval to split the position to vote in the nomination as Secretary. Our next Chapter Meeting will be held on January 27, 2021, we are still very hopeful that it can be an in-person meeting.

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and thank you to the ECCA and all their support staff for the constant support of our Lethbridge Chapter.

# Medicine Hat

Kevin Donst/Edgar Pulido/Brock Galecki, PEC

The Medicine Hat chapter held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 chaired by Provincial President, Tim Brundage. The Associate Spotlight speaker was Cathy Whyte Sunlife/Canwest Insurance who spoke on ECAA's enhanced benefit plan. This plan is exclusive to ECAA contractors, with guaranteed enrollment as no medical or previous claims experience is required. Contact the ECAA office for Cathy's information.

The second Associate Spotlight speaker was Tim Hydzik, Phoenix Lighting who delivered a passionate presentation on Durability by Design which was enjoyed by all. ECAA Member Relations, Don Kuziw, attended the meeting in person and introduced himself to the membership. Thank you to Brock, Everett and Kevin for taking on the task to revitalize the Chapter. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13th.

# North East

Keith Urlacher

The North East Chapter is still struggling like the rest of the country, but we will prevail and hope that the new year will be better.

The North East Chapter held our meeting October 20th. There were 11 members and guests who attended either in person or via zoom. The meeting sponsor was Scott Lee from Powerco Scott also did a presentation on Sinewave filtering for VFD Electric Motors.



We have a new PEC, Tyler Dicker, who was present and acknowledged. Congratulations, Tyler.

On behalf of the North East Chapter I would like to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and thank you for your continued support.

# North West

Jason Bradshaw

Season's Greetings, 2020 will probably be remembered as the year of COVID. I know, it can sound bleak. It's important to address that this has changed our business and personal lives quite a bit. There's been a lot more changes than we are accustomed to. My prayers go out to those of you who've seen this firsthand and have lost loved ones. With the new challenge before us, we've been forced to evaluate our everyday and be innovative with solutions. It hasn't been easy, but it is rewarding to come up with new ideas.

The North West chapter was able to have a couple hybrid meetings in the past few months. Yeah, hybrid meetings are awkward, but our NW members have been gracious and taken it in stride. I am thankful they still show up and participate in the discussions. A shout out to Tim Hydzik at Phoenix Lighting who did an amazing presentation at our last meeting. Our members were pleased to network and to learn more about LEDs and optics. Some of them went home with a demo fixture. Score!

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Christmas Social this year. After some really good ideas, the executive had to make that tough decision. Looking back now I think we're glad we chose that route. We've agreed to be even more committed to having what I think would be our first BBQ in spring 2021.

Lastly, I'd like to thank a few people at the ECAA whom I've been honoured to work with these past few months. The executive team, Tim Tarita, Brandon Thoma, Camille, Sheri and Don Kuziw who have come along side to keep the NW chapter running. Thanks for all your support.

Hope you all have a Merry Christmas!

# Committee Reports

## Alberta Construction Safety Association

David Hagen

In the new year, the ACSA offered CSTS free to workers and employers. This assisted in reducing the barrier for workers in obtaining the introductory training for construction.

The new Audit standard was introduced in 2019. The ACSA worked with construction companies to help them understand and comply with new audit standard.

The Covid-19 Pandemic arrived challenging and changing the organization's operations. The ACSA classroom training was suspended. The Partnership group directed all certifying partners to perform document only audits. ACSA staff, where possible moved to working from home.

As construction activities were approved to continue during the Covid-19 pandemic, the ACSA pivoted quickly to provide online classroom training. As with any major change this brought some challenges but also some benefits. These included, reducing travel costs for employers and students.



The ACSA had organized a Strategic Planning session for the first part of 2020. As with many obstacles the pandemic caused, this meeting was postponed for later in the year when hopefully the meeting could commence in person. However, as fall arrived it was apparent that in-person meeting of this size was not going to be possible. In order to ensure the ACSA is meeting the needs of the construction industry in Alberta the Strategic Planning session proceeded with an online meeting on November 26 and 27. The Strategic Planning session was very positive and the ACSA is working on finalizing the plans for the January 2021 Board Meeting.

On November 5, 2020, the government introduced Bill 47 "Ensuring Safety and Cutting Red Tape Act". If passed, the government believes these amendments will improve health and safety in the workplace by simplifying rules and removing unnecessary barriers, making the process easier for employers and workers. This may require the ACSA to review and update training programs.

Stay safe and healthy.

## Associate Liaison North

Darrell Warholik

I hope everybody and their families are staying safe and healthy and learning to cope with the situation that we are all facing. I really believe that the electrical industry as a whole has done a fantastic job in these trying times.

I would like to thank Camille for sending out the participation survey. THANKS CAMILLE.

The survey sent out is below.

*Hi everybody. We have been noticing a considerable lack of attendance at our Chapter meetings this season (September to date) from our Associate members.*

*We would like to ask a few questions to see if we can rectify this situation.*

- 1. Is the time favorable to everybody or would a different time slot work?*
- 2. Would you be more comfortable attending in person or Zoom? (is everybody getting Zoomed out)*
- 3. Do you use the ECAA ability to present your business or products (lunch and*



*learns, through the month?*

*4. Do you use the ECAA ability to advertise your promotions or new products?*

*5. Is it a budgetary concern from your company?*

This went to all the Associate members in Alberta and I appreciate those that took time to answer.

I would like to thank all the contractors for supporting the Associates that support the ECAA.

If for any reason you need to reach me, please you can contact me at:

Cell: 780-970-7997 or email me at [darrell.warholik@ca.abb.com](mailto:darrell.warholik@ca.abb.com)

I hope everybody and their families stay safe and healthy and everybody has a wonderful holiday season.

## South

Cody MacInnis

2020 has been a challenging year for our industry. We haven't been able to meet in person as often as we'd like to, and we've had to overcome new challenges and change how we conduct business. This year has highlighted the important role of the ECAA as a voice for our industry.

As we look to 2021, I think it's important to emphasize the benefits of membership and participation in the ECAA.

As an Associate Member you can attend monthly meetings as well as social events where you can build relationships with other associates as well as contractors. Associate Members are also able to showcase new products, programs and courses at our monthly meetings. The ECAA also provides a forum where you can voice your thoughts and concerns.

## Communications

Russell Daw

The ECAA continues to connect to our current and potential members. Bob Clarke has stepped down from his chair position for this committee. I would like to thank him for all his hard work and am very happy he has decided to stay on the committee to help us and share his experience.

We have restarted our digital campaign with the ads that were already made. We have also been working on new messaging and new visual marketing materials. 2020 has been a tough year and we are working hard on figuring out how to attract new members as well as help our current members.

We have added a few new team members to our committee as well with the joining of the PEC marketing department. We are very excited to think of ways we can help keep brand strong and current.

I would like to thank Grant Ainsley and Christine Hryniw for all the hard work they do for this committee. Have a safe and happy holiday!

## Convention 2021

Tim Brundage

As HS guidelines permitting, we are off to Kananaskis Country for Training Day, Convention and the Annual General Meetings in May. The Pomeroy Mountain Lodge has been secured with an additional option of staying at the Crosswaters Resort. Tentative agenda includes golf on Thursday, May 27th, individual tee times beginning with lunch. Twelve 4-somes have been booked at both Mt. Kidd and Mt. Lorette to speed up tournament play.

Larry Cantelo has begun working on Training Day speakers. This year we will offer two streams instead of three, as we are hoping to deliver the sessions remotely as well as in person. Kananaskis Country embraces Alberta's first unique outdoor Nordic spa, with a dedicated 50,000 square foot wellness site, perfect for some R&R. The Annual General Meetings will be held on Saturday the 29th, followed by the President's Gala. Sunday morning will feature a farewell breakfast before we heading back to our respective homes.

## Out-of-Country Convention

Scott Hutton

Due to the covid pandemic delaying a pre-planned trip many of our members were partaking in, the out-of-country convention will be a 10 day African Safari in Kenya, followed by 4 nights at the Baobab Beach Resort in Diani Beach from October 13 – 29, 2021. This



customized adventure was put together by Rick MacSwain, Network Travel who will be accompanying the group. For more information, Rick can be contacted directly at [RMacSwain@NetworkTravel.ca](mailto:RMacSwain@NetworkTravel.ca).

# Education

Jeff Light, PEC

Season's Greetings to Everyone!

Although there has not been a formal Education Committee meeting recently lots has been happening.

Learning on-line now seems to be the normal rather than the exception. The majority of the PEC certification courses are now available virtually with Finalizing the Tender and Computer Estimating still being held in the classroom with Covid-19 protocols being followed. A great big thank you to Christine at the ECAA and all the instructors for making the on-line option a reality.

We have a new instructor, Carmen Wyton, who has taken on the task of updating and delivering the Business Development course on-line. Thank You to Phil Perry who also joined our PEC instructions and is now delivering the Project Management course.

ECAA has been working with TW Becker Electrical Safety Consulting Inc (ECAA Associate Member) to provide a web-based CSA Z462 course dealing with Arc Flash and Shock Hazard. I think it is safe to say that everyday electricians



are performing "Live Work" but unfortunately many may not have compliant training. If you are a sole proprietor, owner, business partner or manager you should have this training and provide this training to your electricians. Arc Flash and Shock Hazard should be in the top 5 items of your Safety Management Program.

When it comes to a Subject Matter Expert (SME) on Arc Flash and Shock Hazard I'm sure you won't find anyone more passionate than Terry Becker; developer and instructor for the course. We hope to roll the course out in the first week January 2021. The Zoom platform will be used and participants must have video and audio engaged in order for the instructor to validate your attendance. I ask that all seriously consider providing/taking this training for yourself and your employees and support our Associate member.

Please check the ECAA web site regularly as a number of new on-line courses (including 2021 code update) are being added. In closing, be respectful to each other, protect the ones you love and have a very Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

# Electrical Sub Council

Bert DeBruin

This is an update from the Quarter 3.

- The Electrical Sub Council Matrix was reviewed and found to appropriately represent the electrical discipline (previously a PV-Solar rep position was added).
- Single Family Dwelling Joint Working Group was created to review the definition of Single- Family Residential Dwelling within the Permit Regulation.
- Ongoing discussion around submerged equipment including review of safety tips and a draft STANDATA.

- o Electrical Safety Tips document was reviewed with suggestions.
- o Electrical Railways STANDATA received support to issue. Stay tuned



- o Final report on CE Code Farm Services Working Group was submitted for review
- o A letter of response will be sent to the EIAA regarding their submission
- o MOTION CARRIED to pass along the information from the working group to the Administrator in order to draft a STANDATA on grounding for farm services for review by the Electrical Sub-Council.
- Proposed future Safety Codes Officer (SCO) training for inspecting megawatt-scale battery-based energy storage systems.
- Mandatory training courses were scheduled for new and existing members.

# Fire Sub Council

Joe Davis

Well we made it. 2020 is almost officially over. I hope everyone is doing well in the new normal.

My last Fire Sub Council meeting was on November 19th. The meetings have moved to virtual due to the pandemic. Nothing to report from this meeting. The next scheduled meeting is January 21st, 2021.



I do want to thank Kevin Harrison for continuing with the fire alarm update course. The last course was in October and the next one will be in March 2021. We continue to have a great turn out for these courses. Kevin is also looking at an option to remotely conduct these courses and the Board will be reviewing this option.

Thank you to the Association and its members for continuing to allow me to represent you on the Fire Sub Council. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

## Joos Codes December

This issue I would like to discuss the requirements for testing and inspecting fire alarm systems. Many of you are aware of the verification requirements of a system when it is installed but did you know there was a separate code for testing and inspection? ULC publishes CAN/ULC-S536 this is the standard that is referenced in the building code for the inspection and testing of fire alarm systems once they are verified and commissioned.

If you or anyone in your company is testing fire alarm systems, they should have a copy of this standard and should know it front to back. This standard not only tells you what, how and when an inspection is required it also has the documents required by law in Alberta that are required to be filled out in the back of the standard.

This month I wanted to give you a bit of advice that you can share with the building owners as you turn these buildings over. There is 364 days before the next time a fire alarm system is required to be inspected by a properly certified electrical contractor or technician. Did you know that there are requirements to inspect the fire alarm system daily and monthly? Below is a snippet from CAN/ULC-537 that you can share with your customers when you hand them the keys to their new building.



## 5 PERIODIC INSPECTIONS AND TESTS – DAILY AND MONTHLY

### 5.1 DAILY

5.1.1 The following *daily inspections* shall be conducted to confirm the operability of the *fire alarm system*:

- A Status of the primary and remote *trouble signal* indicators; and
- B Status of the primary power 'on' or equivalent indicator.

### 5.2 MONTHLY

NOTE: The *inspection and test* requirements in this Subsection may be omitted during the month when the annual *tests* required by Section 6, Periodic Inspections and Tests – Annually, are being performed.

5.2.1 While on the *emergency power supply*, *inspect and test* the following to confirm the operability of the *fire alarm system*. (Refer to Appendix D, Monthly Fire Alarm System Test and Inspection Record, for an example of a *test* record form.):

NOTE: It is recommended that *tests* be coordinated with emergency power generator *tests*.

- A One initiating *field device* or *manual station* shall be operated on a rotational basis and the system *inspected* for operation as follows:
  - (i) An *alert signal* and an *alarm signal* confirmed on a rotational basis to a minimum of one *zone* or as may be required by the Fire Safety Plan for the *building*;
  - (ii) The primary *annunciator* *inspected* to determine that the *tested* device annunciated correctly;
- B Operation of the common audible and visual *trouble signals*;
- C Confirmation of alarm transmission to the *fire signal receiving centre* where applicable;
- D One emergency telephone shall be *tested* on a rotational basis for two-way communication and correct indication at the *control unit* or *transponder*; and

# Labour Relations

Brian Halina

Season's greetings from the Labour Relations Committee. This has been a year like no other with the COVID-19 pandemic thrust upon us, and the economy struggling province wide. It goes without saying that the work situation has slowed drastically since March, but with Contractors putting safety measures and COVID protocols in place, work has gradually picked up.

## Changes in staffing on the Labour Relations Committee

For the information of the ECAA Members that are not members of the Labour Relations Committee, Jim Bendfeld, our Labour Relations Coordinator has retired after 12 years of service to the ECAA Labour Relations Committee, and 50 years of service to the unionized Electrical Industry in Alberta. The Labour Relations Committee on behalf of the Unionized Electrical Contractors thanks Jim for his years of service and wish him and his wife Rose all the best in their retirement. Thanks Jim!

With Jim's retirement, the Labour Relations Committee welcomes Tim Brower to fill Jim's role as the Labour Relations Coordinator. Tim comes to us as a Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR) with 12 years of experience as a Union Representative, and most recently, 10 years as a LR



Representative for various Electrical Contractors and Owners. Welcome aboard Tim.

Apprenticeship and Industry Training First Period Electrician exam and completing extensive hands on training; a PACT student arrives with First Aid, CSTS, ESTS, Arc Flash Awareness, Fall Protection, Elevated Work Platform, Conduit Bending, Tray & Cable Installation, Success in the Workplace Soft Skills. The current class will be available to start work Tuesday July 2, 2019. If you will be in a position to start a PACT Student, or have any questions about the program, please contact Todd Chronik or William Willis at The Electrical Industry Training Centre (EITCA).

Here is a link to the website for information about P.A.C.T <http://www.ibew424.net/training/pact.html> (Application)

The next PACT Program is scheduled to begin on September 2nd, 2019. It is important to continue to provide safe, competent first year apprentices into the workforce. EITCA is asking that if you are aware of anyone that is interested in entering the Electrical trade, please recommend them to us. Over the past 18 years, PACT has proven to be the best learning experience and opportunity for those entering the Electrical trade.

## Negotiations

Some of the Registered Employers' Organizations have been negotiating with their respective Building Trades Unions over the summer, and some have reached memorandums, and signed agreements. There have been some discussions between the ECAA and IBEW negotiating committees, but no formal face to face negotiations have taken place. There have however been a couple of recent Letters of Understanding (LOU) and Special Project Needs Agreement (SPNA) signed between the parties. The LOU

adopts the Canadian Model Version 6 as the relevant Canadian Model within the ECAA/IBEW Collective Agreement. The SPNA covers work under Appendix "F" and breaks the Province into three (3) distinct regions. It permits the use of differing rates, terms, and conditions for the different regions.

## ECAA Alcohol & Drug Assistance Program

The ECAA's contract with Homewood Health for the Rapid Site Access Program (RSAP) and the Aftercare Program is coming up for renewal in 2021. The ECAA and the other Registered Employers Organizations have sent out an Request for Proposal and have interviewed a number of proponents for these contracts. After rigorous discussions and debate, the ECAA, the BCA and the CLR-A will be negotiating new contracts with Homewood Health to continue the service they have been providing for the past 10 years. There could be some changes coming to the programs though. One being a streamlined

process for "reclus use" where a worker is found in non-compliance with the Canadian Model for a poor decision. The other following an announcement from the Government of Alberta, that Residential Treatment Programs will be funded by the Province.

All the best over the Holiday Season, and please stay safe.

# Legislation

Terry Milot

Finally, after 7 long years we are getting closer to having legislation that will enable contractors to be paid for their work in a timely manner. Bill 37: The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2020 passed 3rd reading on November 26th. This legislation would introduce timelines and rules for payments and liens in all construction industry sectors, ensuring contractors and subcontracting are paid on time.

Previously Alberta had no rules for payment timelines in the construction industry, which means these timelines were vague if not addressed in a contract. If passed, these changes will set a clear timeline of 28 days for payments



to be received, giving construction industry professionals the confidence they need to operate successfully.

A lot of work is yet to be done during the regulation process. ECAA's efforts have not gone unnoticed and we are pleased to confirm that Terry Milot has been selected as a SME (Subject Matter Expert) for the regulation consultation review to ensure industry needs are met. We look forward to the remaining challenge and the work Government has already done in anticipation for a July 1, 2021 coming into force date. On behalf of all of us at ECAA, congratulations Terry, the Alberta Trade Contractors Coalition and industry partners for a job well done!!



ALBERTA  
SERVICE ALBERTA

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Strathcona-Sherwood Park*

December 1, 2020

I don't need to tell you how the lack of a prompt payment system is a big and growing problem in the construction industry. Members of the construction industry have been telling the Alberta government about this for years. I'm pleased to say that we have heard you and, better yet, we have taken action to fix the problem. As you may be aware, Alberta's government tabled long-awaited legislation to address your concerns about prompt payment in October and, I'm pleased to report, that legislation passed at the end of November.

For those who are not aware, the updated (and newly renamed) *Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act* introduces a 28-7-7-7 payment timeline, similar to what Ontario has; introduces mandatory adjudication to help resolve issues of non-payment; and extends lien periods from 45 to 60 days (90 days for concrete).

This legislation is all about strengthening the construction industry in Alberta. It is all about protecting your jobs. It is about giving all parties on a construction project confidence and certainty, whether they are a project owner, a general contractor, or a subcontractor. I am confident these changes will help job creators and employers expand their businesses and attract investment, both of which will help create more jobs. On a related note, I am confident these changes ensure that small, medium, and large construction companies all across Alberta will be in a strong financial position and be better equipped to face whatever challenges may arise in the years to come.

We could not have gotten to where we are today without the advocacy and collaboration of so many of you and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your input. But the work is not done yet. I and my staff have continued working with and listening to members of the construction industry throughout this process and we won't stop until the legislation and its corresponding regulations are where they need to be in preparation for a July 1, 2021 coming into force date. Thank you for all that you do to build Alberta's future. Alberta's government has got your back.

Nate Glubish, Minister of Service Alberta

# Member Relations

Don Kuziw

I took over Member Relations for ECAA at the beginning of September of this challenging year, not knowing much about the membership, its practices, or the type of influence it has within our industry. To me, this has been a real revelation how powerful of a group we have. In this small snapshot of time, I have discovered what an influential group of members we have trying to build and address issues in our field. Maybe the biggest take away that I learned is that we have members that truly care about each other.

Special thanks to outgoing ECAA Membership leader Steve Warholik for leaving the ECAA membership in a great place for me to step in. Steve's relationship with the members was clearly evident as he was well liked and very well respected within the ECAA. Thank you again.

I have been able to participate in all the Executive and Chapter Meetings, either in person or on Zoom. Some of the issues brought up include changing guidelines in CSA Z462 in 2021, where incident energy on the 120/240V scale could potentially be put in print (depending on the vote), meaning the delivery of Electrical services for contractors would cost more because they would need to be dressed in the proper PPE – Arc flash protection when working on live equipment (changing a plug, installing a breaker, etc).

If this doesn't go into print in 2021, it will mean it has been voted down; however the feeling is that it will be voted in and the industry might have to brace for the changes associated with it. We will all know in January of 2021. Stay tuned.

Other hot button issues discussed with the members at the various Chapter meetings have been the breaker shortages happening presently, inconsistent code interpretations by inspectors leaving confusion and frustration to the contractors, no provincial exams to apprentice electricians in the trade schools across the province, where the 'free journeyman's pass' given to them did not resonate well with some.

I find the best discussions with our members come in our one-on-one talk's, or group discussions where it is all off the record. This is how truly passionate our members are about the industry as a whole.

Special thanks to Sheri McLean and Camille Austin for their tremendous support and patience with me getting acclimated to my new role!

# Professional Electrical Contractor

Darcy Teichroeb, PEC

The PEC Registration committee continues to process new applications which is great for our membership. With the Pandemic restrictions there is significant reduction in PEC activities including meetings. We are currently in the process of updating our Online Ethics training course with a new vendor. An initial kick-off meeting was held December 1st to identify the process and milestones needed to be completed with the intentions to have the new course ready for the new year.

The Marketing committee is consolidating with the ECAA Communications/Marketing committee which will streamline resources and realize economic efficiencies. The members of the PEC Marketing Committee have been invited to participate on the ECAA Communications/Marketing Committee.

I do not have any new updates on the Professional Master Electrician (PM Elec) program as we were instructed by the Minister to wait for the POARA consolidation program committee to complete their review and recommendations. The ECAA will have input and participation with this committee.

There is another Grounding and Bonding Seminal in January which would be a great training/education opportunity for APD points. With the Pandemic there are fewer opportunities to participate in training/education venues for acquiring APD points, but the ECAA is offering the option of joining any of the Chapter Meeting presentations online which would qualify for APD points. Please contact the ECAA office to register for these presentations.

I would like to thank all PEC committee members for their participation and contributions to the PEC program and wish all members and their families a safe and prosperous holiday season.

# CSA Z462 Workplace Electrical Safety Standard, 2021 Edition Changes & Updates

Terry Becker, P.Eng., CESC, IEEE Senior Member

Changes in the CSA Z462 Workplace Electrical Safety Standard are slowing down. Good news! That said the 2021 Edition will still see significant reorganization of content in Clause 4.1 and 4.3, changes to existing Annexes, some new Annexes and a significant change to the Arc Flash PPE Category Method of determining “additional protective measures” for a work task’s arc flash risk assessment are included in the 2021 Edition that may imply that 120/240VAC single phase electrical equipment can sustain an abnormal arcing fault and create an arc flash hazard.

## Clause 4 Safety-related work practices

Anticipated to occur. This is a positive change to further clarify the framework/contents of an employer’s Electrical Safety Program and the elements that need to be considered when completing a work task’s risk assessment procedure. Content may be deleted altogether, updated or relocated between Clauses. Significant Clause number changes will occur with this realignment of content. Clause 4.1 will now identify that an employer shall create and document an “Electrical Safety Policy” that affirms the organization’s commitment to identify electrical hazards, eliminate exposure or assessment and control risks and as a priority establish an electrically safe work condition. This policy should be documented in the employer’s Electrical Safety Program. Clause 4.1 will now include a new Clause with a general requirement that an electrically safe work condition shall be established as identified in Clause 4.2. Practices as identified in CSA Z462 Clause 4.1 and 4.3 shall be used if an electrically safe work condition cannot be established.

Justification statements for energized electrical work will be relocated from Clause 4.3 to Clause 4.1. With respect to the applicable voltage level that CSA Z462 applies to in the 2021 Edition 30VAC will be retained, but the threshold voltage for DC will be increased to 60VDC.

Some updated content will be added to the risk assessment procedure Clause, and specifically Clause 4.3.2.2.4 Normal operating condition will be relocated to Clause 4.1 under risk assessment procedure. This is an appropriate update as the requirements of a normal operating condition relate directly to risk assessment (e.g. likelihood of occurrence) and are not related to justification for energized electrical work.

Additionally, in Clause 4.1.6.9 from the 2018 Edition (this Clause will be renumbered) new Annex I content will be added providing an example of a job safety planning checklist. Updated Clause 4.1 content will be included for “Lockout program and procedures.”

A significant change in the 2021 Edition related to type of training will see the addition of language in the Notes for the existing Clause 4.1.7.1.5 that now recognizes that training can include “Classroom training can include interactive electronic or interactive web-based training.”

In Clause 4.3 as noted above significant content is relocated to Clause 4.1 which does enhance the flow of content. In Clause 4.3 some additional content modifications are included with respect describing the “estimate of likelihood and severity” for a work task’s shock risk assessment. CSA Z462 Table 2 Estimate of the likelihood of occurrence of an arc flash incident for ac and dc systems may see the deletion of the work task “For dc systems, insertion or removal of individual cells or multi-cell units of a battery system in an open rack” which was a repeated work task. A new work task may be added “Operation of a CB or switch that is not in a normal equipment condition,” for any equipment condition (the wording of this task will most likely change). An anticipated wording change to the “Removal or battery conductive intercell

The CSA Z462 Workplace electrical safety Standard will publish its fifth edition in January 2021. Since its inception in 2006 following CSA and NFPA executing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to harmonize Standards for North America CSA Z462 has had a positive impact on electrical safety and the identification and effective management of arc flash and shock hazards. Lives have been saved!

With respect to the changes as documented in the public review draft the following significant changes are anticipated to be published. Not all changes are potentially included in this article..

connector covers” to “Insertion or removal of connector covers or battery intercell connector(s).” The arc resistant switchgear work task description will be updated.

In Clause 4.3.7.3 Personal protective equipment new content is added to the note providing risk control method options to consider when the incident energy exceeds the ATPV of available arc flash PPE to manage risk.

The most significant anticipated change in CSA Z462 2021 Edition relates to Clause 4.3.7.3.15 Arc flash PPE category method. The existing Table 6A electrical equipment parameters were used with the new IEEE 1584 2018 Edition formulas and a new arc flash PPE category 5, minimum 75 cal/cm<sup>2</sup> will be added for 600V class switchgear. As well the arc resistant electrical equipment rows will clarify that the arc flash PPE category is N/A when doors are closed and secured and the available fault current does not exceed the arc-resistant rating of the electrical equipment.

A new alternate table to Table 6A, Table V.1 is also added in a new Annex V Arc flash PPE categories that will be a normative Annex. The existing Table 6A Arc-flash PPE categories for alternating current (ac) systems has not been deleted and either Table 6A or Table V.1 can be used. Included in the new Annex V is Figure V.1, Table V.1 Arc flash PPE categories selection flow chart which is provided as a guide to the use of the alternate Table V.1. Table V.1 was added in an effort to simplify the information gathering required to use the arc flash PPE category method. Of significance this new Table V.1 includes electrical equipment that is “240VAC single phase” indicating an arcing fault probability is sustainable for 240VAC single phase electrical equipment. Official clarification can be requested from the CSA Group when the 2021 Edition of CSA Z462 publishes with respect to the addition of 240VAC single phase electrical equipment as capable of sustaining an abnormal arcing fault condition. Table 6C Personal protective equipment (PPE) is updated to include arc flash PPE category 5, minimum 75 cal/cm<sup>2</sup>.

In closing the CSA Z462 Workplace electrical safety Standard has made a significantly positive impact in Canada since 2009 to worker safety related to energized electrical work. Many employers are referencing CSA Z462 when developing their Electrical Safety Programs and in determining the hierarchy or risk control methods to apply to work tasks to eliminate exposure to arc flash & shock for Qualified Electrical Workers and Task Qualified Workers or reduce risk to as low as reasonably practicable

This article is not an official interpretation from the CSA Group and is based on the publicly released public review draft and the interpretation of the author of this article. You are advised to contact the CSA Group when CSA Z462 2021 Edition publishes in late January 2021 for any official interpretation.

**If you would like to discuss this article and the information presented please contact me, [terry.becker@twbesc.ca](mailto:terry.becker@twbesc.ca) or 1-587-433-3777**

# Winter driving: tips on what to pack in your car's emergency safety kit

Submitted by Reza Kamrani, Account Representative, Associations | [www.federated.ca](http://www.federated.ca)

**Before hitting the road, you have to make sure you have a few essentials. Everyone knows that certain items are a must, like a driver's license or shoes. But what about the essentials that aren't legally required but could make a world of difference should you run into a problem?**

Picture this: you're happily driving down the road when your car decides to unexpectedly break down. You manage to pull over to the side of the street, but your car dies shortly after. It's cold, you have no heat, and you're starting to get hungry.

Luckily, there's an easy way to avoid this situation, or at least make sure you're not cold and hungry while it's happening. That's where a driver's emergency roadside safety kit comes in, which can be easily stored in the trunk of your car. But what should you keep in your kit or the kits inside your company cars? We have just a few suggestions.

## The basics

Drivers can customize their kits for their own particular needs, but there are a few items that may come in handy if your car breaks down or you find yourself in an accident:

- A tow rope or chain
- Booster cables
- Fuel line antifreeze
- A small tool kit
- A fire extinguisher

## During the winter

When the weather cools down, it's all the more dangerous to be stranded in your car. That's not to say you shouldn't have a kit prepared in the summer, but with freezing cold temperatures to combat in the winter, it's especially important to have some items prepared to keep you warm. Here are a few items that could come in handy should you be trapped in a snowstorm:

- A first aid kit
- Band-aids
- Bottled water
- Energy bars
- Roadmaps
- Gloves
- Matches
- A blanket
- Extra clothing and footwear
- Emergency food (non-perishable, such as canned fruit, nut, candy, etc.)
- A can opener and a pocket knife
- A candle and a deep can to place it in when it's lit

It's also a good idea to keep a fully-charged mobile phone in the car with you at all times so that you can call someone if you're stranded. And consider placing a shovel in your trunk so that if you're ever stuck in deep snow or there's an excess of ice buildup on your windshield, you can deal with it easily.

### To alert rescuers

It can't hurt to have the necessary equipment to make sure you get help when you need it, so that you can get out of that sticky situation quickly. In order to do this, you could pack the following items:

- Road flares or warning lights
- Bright cloth to use as a flag
- A "call police" sign
- A flashlight and extra batteries

### And don't forget to drive responsibly

The emergency roadside safety kit may not even be necessary if you don't get into an accident. A number of accidents can be prevented by simply driving responsibly once you're on the road.

As basic as it sounds, driving slowly in the snow can make a world of difference. It's important to always be aware of your surroundings, to never use cruise control if conditions are snowy, icy, or wet, and to signal ahead of time to give the vehicle behind you plenty of notice.

One should also avoid tailgating — and no, we don't mean the kind that occurs before football games over food and beverages. Since it can take longer to stop on a slippery road, driving too close behind other vehicles can be dangerous.

While you can easily follow these guidelines when you're driving your car, you can't be sure that your employees do so when they drive company cars. In order to combat this, consider instituting a driver policy, which reinforces the standards you expect employees to follow when using company cars.

© Federated Insurance Company of Canada. All rights reserved.

This document is provided by Federated Insurance Company of Canada ("Federated") for informational purposes only to augment your own internal safety, compliance and risk management practices, and is not intended as a substitute for assessment or other professional advice by a qualified person or entity.

Federated makes no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this document. Federated shall not be responsible in any manner for any loss, or any direct, indirect, consequential, special, punitive or other damages, arising out of your, or any other person's, use or reliance on the information contained in this document.

Reza Kamrani is the Account Representative for Associations at Federated Insurance.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

President: Tim Brundage  
Vice President: Scott Hutton  
Treasurer: Neil Moffatt  
Secretary: Tim Fehr  
Past President: Terry Barnett

### Chapter Presidents & ECAA Directors:

Calgary Chris Jardine  
Central Darcy Teichroeb, PEC  
Edmonton Jason Kuziw  
Fort McMurray Daniel Kuderewko, PEC  
Lethbridge Edgar Garcia  
North East Keith Urlacher  
North West Jason Bradshaw, PEC

### Directors-at-Large:

North Terry Milot  
South Andrew McGuire

### Committees:

ACSA  
Apprenticeship  
Associate Liaison (North)  
Associate Liaison (South)  
CECA  
Communications  
Convention '21  
Convention '22  
Data  
Education  
Green Energy  
Labour Relations – Union  
Labour – Open Shop  
Member Relations  
Nomination

PEC  
Public Members

Safety Codes Council:  
Fire  
Electrical

Ways & Means

Dave Hagen  
Chris Rauschnig, PEC  
Darrell Warholik  
Cody MacInnis  
Terry Milot  
Russell Daw, PEC  
Tim Brundage  
Scott Hutton  
open for volunteer  
Jeff Light, PEC  
Lou Hiemer, PEC  
Brian Halina  
Scott Hutton  
Don Kuziw  
Tim Tarita  
Eric Fadden, PEC  
Keven Lefebvre, PEC

Darcy Teichroeb, PEC  
Susan Rockwood  
Hans Tiedemann

Joe Davis  
Bert DeBruin

Neil Moffatt

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Contractors

ADL Innovative Energy Inc. Edmonton  
Creative Power Sherwood Park  
Delray Electric Ltd. Morinville  
Fish Energy Ltd. Fort McMurray  
Indigo Construction Services Ltd. Edmonton  
North Phase Electrical Sherwood Park  
Prestige Electric St. Albert  
Refine Electric Ltd. Edmonton  
Sehlstrom Electric Bashaw  
Sheeler Electric Ltd. Drayton Valley  
She's Electric Edmonton  
Spartan Electrical Services Ltd. Spruce Grove  
Speedy Bros Electric Inc. Lloydminster  
St. Croix Electric Fort McMurray  
Sutherland Electric Ltd. Red Deer

### Associates

Cooper Equipment Rentals Edmonton  
Cummins Edmonton  
Electric Power & Equipment Ltd. Edmonton  
HVAC Rentals Calgary  
Reliable Lighting Solutions Calgary

### Journey Person Associates

Naishadhsinh Bihola Edmonton  
Paul Fraser Edmonton  
Sean Fyles-Duggan Red Deer  
Jordan Hofer Lloydminster  
Jennifer Horne Turner Valley  
Mack Jordan Calgary  
John McEwan Edmonton  
Curtis Rinke Airdrie  
Sukhminder Sandhu Calgary  
Dale Seranas Edmonton  
Shaun Soenen Lethbridge

### Retired Members

Andy Makelki High River  
Bob Kharey Calgary  
Jack Wearmouth Grande Prairie

### Congratulations PEC's

Damian Supersad PEC #376  
Sean Black PEC #377  
Tyler Dicker PEC #378  
Jason Courtepatte PEC #379  
Kurtis Borgstrom PEC #380  
Nicholas Nyilas PEC #381  
Cameron Abbott PEC #382  
Dilbag Dhaliwal PEC #383  
John Mathews PEC #384  
David Hicks PEC #385  
Adrian Mohammed PEC #386  
Andrew Gardner PEC #387