



# THE SPARK

## ECAA E-Newsletter

November 6, 2015

Issue 57

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November 14, 2015  
(Edmonton)

January 14th, 2016  
Calgary

January 18th, 2016  
Edmonton

### NOVEMBER/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 we pass the midpoint of the autumn season, I am still hearing positive comments from our member contractors. While we aren't super busy, most are looking forward to a steady season and that is a promising Alberta attitude.



Keven Lefebvre,  
PEC

Over the next month, ECAA will be unveiling its updated Logo with events such as unveilings in Edmonton & Calgary, a celebration & retirement of the current logo, and the making of a time capsule which will be opened at our 100 anniversary celebration in 2062. The October Provincial Board meeting saw a good presentation of the updated logo, website improvements, and a general refresh to our advertising & branding. Thanks to Jeanette DeBruin & our marketing committee for the heap of hard work they have all put into this.

Our education updates and continuing education course delivery is gaining momentum within industry and first, thanks to Sheri and all the staff in the office for their hard work setting up and managing the logistics for assisting with delivery of these much needed learning opportunities. Secondly, we are starting to look for course delivery opportunities which could include a more aggressive distance outreach, another classroom or larger space so as to be able to keep up with this increasing demand.

One last huge thank you goes out to our PEC Committee, under the lead of Clem Gratton, I am so proud of the ECAA when I see our association being recognized by other provinces who in addition to other queries and recognition of our efforts, are recognizing our PEC program as the next step. This level of interest shows the commitment to our industry that we all as members of ECAA benefit from in some way every day.

The upcoming 2016 ECAA Convention is fast approaching and before you know it April will be here. ECAA has only 8 cabins left held at the current pricing and so if you are planning on accompanying Sheila & I to Amsterdam, Dubrovnik, and 12 days on a cruise of the Grecian islands, don't delay much longer get your deposit in, and set out your boat shoes. This trip is lining up to be one to take out of your bucket list for sure!

**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**  
*Business & Public Relations*  
**November 19th & 20th, 2015**  
**(Edmonton)**

*Electrical Project Management*  
**November 27th & 28th, 2015**  
**(Calgary)**

**[PEC Course List & Dates](#)**

**Upcoming Tradeshows**

Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted in manning the ECAA career fair booths!

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

Social Networking



Find us on Facebook

Have an awesome Movember and see you soon.

Keven Lefebvre PEC

Provincial President

**Getting to Know Your Executive**

***We thought our readers would like to know more about the volunteers who make up the ECAA Board of Directors and have added this feature into the Spark.***

***Getting to know your Calgary Chapter President Brian Reed***

**Company:** Allied Projects

**Family Members:** Wife Miranda, and our two spawns Makenna and Emmerson

**When and how did you start in the industry:** Close friend introduced me to the gateway in 98 and now i'm hooked!

**Favorite Hobbies:** Playing with my girls, football, spending time with friends, poker, gym

**Favorite Sports Team:** Any team that beats Edmonton! I'm a fanatic for NFL and the Calgary Flames.

**Most memorable vacation:** One month in Maui where the fish tacos are plentiful and the surf never dies - would go back tomorrow, any day.

**Affiliations with other associations:** ECAA is my only mistress

**Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices:** Learn to think independently, be creative, don't be afraid to try new things and take chances.

**Favorite ECAA memory:** Anytime Tim Lang speaks, close second is the 2015 AGM Golf Tournament!

**Best part of ECAA is:** The people, hands down!

**Getting to Know Your Associates**

**ECAA Associate Members - Do you know your benefits?**

- letting ECAA members get to know your Company in this spot in our monthly Spark
- advertising opportunities by inserting a one page announcement with our quarterly Contactor
- taking advantage of the table top opportunities at the upcoming Edmonton and Calgary Industry nights
- opportunities at the annual Training Day at the AGM
- opportunity to meet many of the new contractor members that are joining at the monthly chapter meeting as the membership is experiencing nice growth
- various social activities in all Chapters
- Contact the Provincial office for more information on any of the above

opportunities

**Report From Bob Clarke, Associate Liaison Chair** The recent provincial and federal elections that put new parties in power will most certainly impact Alberta and has many people rather concerned as there is a fair amount of uncertainty. That said ... the existing strength of our economy has us smack dab right in the middle of our hectic beat the frost fall construction season and commercially we are firing on all cylinders. It is crazy busy and the tight time lines we seem to always have to meet along with all of the on the fly changes to the initial specification just adds to the challenges ... but busy is way better than not busy.

On that note the industrial sector is seeing some very trying times. In September there was an average of 113 active rigs drilling in Alberta; a 59.5% decrease from September 2014 bringing the active rig count to a twenty year low. The recent announcement by Shell to cancel their \$2B Carmon Creek project near Peace River is another tough indicator of possibly more bad news to come.

Alberta's population was 4,196,457 as of July 1, 2015. This was an increase of 1.8% from the year prior. Nationally, population grew 0.9% from a year ago.

Net migration to Alberta was 11,472 in the second quarter of 2015. There were 3,208 net international migrants and 8,264 net inter-provincial migrants to the province. Alberta gained 12,300 jobs in September, building on gains in the previous month. Job gains in the private sector more than off-set public sector losses. Year-over year employment grew by 1.4%.

Alberta's unemployment rate ticked up to 6.5% in September. The unemployment rate is up 2 percentage points from January.

Alberta housing starts increased by 6.9% to 36,951(annualized) in September, declining by 22% from September 2014.

The total value of building permits issued in Alberta was \$1.3 billion in August, down 16% from July and down 9.5% year-to-date.

Alberta non-residential construction increased by 0.9% in the third quarter to \$2.8 billion. This increase was due to an impressive 23% expansion of investment in institutional and governmental structures.

## Industry News

**Please join us for two exciting events as:** ECAA Honors Past Presidents and retires 52 year old logo on Tuesday, December 8th at ECAA Office. Join us from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm for our annual Christmas Open House and sharing some Christmas Cheer.

**ECAA Launches new logo** in conjunction with Calgary Chapter Christmas social on Thursday, December 10th at the Best Western Port O'Call. Logo launch at 5:00 pm. Christmas Social and silent auction to follow. Remember to bring food bank donations.

**Manitoba Joins Alberta in Promoting Professional Electrical Contractor Designation** Beginning in early 2016, the Electrical Association of Manitoba will be offering the Professional Electrical Contractor program. More to come on this exciting new venture.

**ELECTRICAL REGULATION AND STANDATA** The Canadian Electrical Code 2015 and

the Code for Electrical Installations at Oil and Gas Facilities 2015 are adopted by the Electrical Code Regulation (Alberta Regulation 126/2015) and comes into force on January 1, 2016 under the Safety Codes Act. For further information follow this [link](#). **Alberta Electrical Utility Code (AEUC)** An Errata has been issued for the AEUC. Follow the link below to view or print. [AEUC Errata \[rev-1\]](#). To view all STANDATA that have been issued for the Electrical Code click [here](#)

**Alberta Safety Codes Authority Update** The Council's newest division, the Alberta Safety Codes Authority (ASCA), will soon take over the permitting and inspection processes in unaccredited areas of Alberta. Now, just two months from its official launch date of January 1, 2016, the ASCA team is shifting focus from design, requirements, and development to implementation planning, agency and staff training, and roll-out. Currently, the Government of Alberta is responsible for administering the Act on behalf of unaccredited municipalities. The legislative framework that allows for the transfer of this responsibility was established through amendments to the Safety Codes Act in March of this year. The Council is excited about this next step in the evolution of the safety codes system in Alberta. In its role, ASCA has the opportunity to effectively implement the compliance monitoring model that is already being used in accredited municipalities and apply it consistently across the province. The change will:

- Improve service delivery to residents of unaccredited municipalities through increased management oversight to ensure conformance with the Safety Codes Act and adherence to best practices and operating standards;
- Mitigate risk to the property owners and the safety codes system by ensuring that Albertan's construction projects are built safely and comply with provincial codes and standards and by having a plan in place to address agency failure that does not require the financial impact to be borne by the Alberta taxpayer;
- Increase consistency and effectiveness of safety codes services across the province through higher accountability measures for accredited agencies; and
- Ensure ASCA is self-sustaining by transparently accounting for all management and service delivery costs, including information system enhancements and the creation of a contingency reserve, and by moving to a user pay fee-for-service funding model

The ASCA team has accomplished a great deal of work to design and implement a new business model to support ASCA. All permitting and inspection processes have been extensively re-engineered, validated with agencies, mapped, and documented. New eSITE templates, forms, and checklists have been developed. Quality and cycle time performance measures have been proposed and can be reported on regularly.

A new permit fee model was approved by the Safety Codes Council Board of Directors in September. The permit fee structure was based on consultation and analysis of current fees and practices with contracted agencies in the unaccredited areas as well as detailed review of some best-in-class accredited municipalities. There will be changes to the fee structure across all disciplines (building, electrical, gas, plumbing, and private sewage). Some will be higher and some will be lower, however it's important to recognize that ASCA's fees are not the most expensive nor the lowest in the province.

ASCA has entered into service agreements with nine out of 10 agencies that had previously delivered safety codes services to unaccredited municipalities under Alberta Municipal Affairs. A Request for Qualifications will be publicly released in the near future offering this same opportunity to other accredited agencies. Other key operational activities, such as developing the long term strategy, creating and approving the budget, human resource requirements, and operational plans have also been completed.

Keep an eye on the [ASCA webpage](#) for further information and developments. If you have questions about ASCA, please direct them to [askasca@safetycodes.ab.ca](mailto:askasca@safetycodes.ab.ca).

**AB Legislative Update (Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters - AB )** Alberta Legislature reconvened on October 26. The 2015-16 provincial budget is to be tabled on the 27th. Advisory panels reviewing Alberta's climate change policy and the provincial royalty regime are also expected to submit their reports to Government during this sitting. Last week, provincial ministries were reorganized to create a new **Department of Economic Development & Trade**. It will bring 'under one umbrella' work currently done by several ministries, but primarily concentrated in Innovation & Advanced Education and International & Intergovernmental Relations. Former Municipal Affairs Minister Deron Bilous will take on this portfolio. (Other changes in Cabinet and in the Deputy Ministers' ranks also resulted from this restructuring.) The new ministry's work will be guided by the advice of the **Premier's Advisory Committee on the Economy**. The Committee will provide ongoing advice, directly to the Premier, on diversification initiatives that identify, promote, and develop non-energy related economic activity, innovation, and job creation. An overview of these (and other) legislative/regulatory developments is available at: <http://ab.cme-mec.ca/uploads/media/54ie773x2.pdf>

Please read the [attached letter](#) from the Minister of Municipal Affairs Deron Bilous, regarding an upcoming **temporary exemption under the Safety Codes Act for residences accommodating individuals under the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) program**. If you require further information, please contact Alberta Municipal Affairs Public Safety Division at 1-866-421-6929 or e-mail [safety.services@gov.ab.ca](mailto:safety.services@gov.ab.ca) where we have technical staff available to answer specific questions and concerns.

**Lakeland College offering Master Electrician Certification Course**  
**January** 9th, 10th, 23rd & 24th; **February** 6th, 7th, 20th, 21st and **March** 5th, 6th, 19th & 20th. For more information or to register, please call: Phone: 780 853 8407  
Toll-free: 1 800 661 6490 ext 8407

**Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) has a new format for our Industry Update.** Please visit [www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca/industryupdate](http://www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca/industryupdate) to view the Fall 2015 edition. There is also a [printable version](#) of the Industry Update on this page should you wish to forward it to your colleagues and members. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the projects or initiatives, please get in touch with your regular AIT contact to connect you with the appropriate area for more information or contact the AIT Information Line at 1-800-248-4823.

**Canadian Apprentice forum - An Invitation.** The Canadian Apprenticeship Forum, a non-profit organization, is hosting an event in Calgary on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Delta Calgary South. Purpose of meeting is to engage apprenticeship stakeholders in a discussion about apprentice and effective labour marketing planning. ECAA has been asked to forward the invitation to our ECAA members. If you are interested in attending, click on the following [link](#).

**2016 EIAA ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE**, February 12 & 13, 2016. Chateau Louis Conference Centre. To register for the conference click [2016 EIAA Conference Registration Form](#)

**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](#).

## 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](http://www.ecaatraining.com)).

***Attend the following Chapter meetings to learn more:*** Thursday, November 12th at the Best Western Port O'Call in Calgary and Monday, November 16th 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

### [Building Technical Council Accessibility and Access of Construction Sites](#)

The ACA is seeking input regarding a discussion paper around barrier free access around construction sites. Your input and experience will help shape how the ACA responds to issues of barrier free design.

The objective of barrier free design principles is to remove as many obstacles as practical for persons with disabilities. It shall be incorporated into the construction of temporary facilities providing protection for the public passing through or around a construction site. All public way users and private property users shall be provided with safe passage through or around any project or work/development that requires temporary closure or adjustment of the public way, building access or exit routes.

If you have any comment or question please contact Jonathan Williams at [jonathan.williams@albertaconstruction.net](mailto:jonathan.williams@albertaconstruction.net). Your comments required by no later than November 18<sup>th</sup>.

You can read the paper [here](#).

### [Medical Facilities Receive Upgrades and Planning in Budget](#)

The province's five-year capital plan allocates \$17 million to expand the Stollery Children's Hospital surgical suite, and \$50 million to redevelop and expand the hospital's critical care units.

In addition to funding for the Stollery, the province's five-year capital plan includes

the following investments in health-care facilities in the Edmonton area:

- Approximately \$47 million for Kaye Edmonton Clinic, including a new state of the art urology clinic, and
- \$20 million for long-term planning for the Royal Alexandra and Misericordia hospitals.

In Calgary, the 2015 budget brings a commitment to build the Calgary Cancer Centre at the Foothills Hospital. After analysis of the site this summer, a final location has been chosen for the facility on the northeast corner of the Foothills Medical Centre Campus. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2017 and the centre is expected to open by 2024.

Budget 2015 includes \$2.2 billion for health infrastructure over the next five years. A total of \$652 million will go towards addressing maintenance needs at health-care facilities across the province.

Investments in other health-care facilities in Calgary and across the province include:

Edson Healthcare Centre  
Foothills Medical Centre  
Grande Prairie Regional Hospital  
High Prairie Health Complex  
Kaye Edmonton Clinic South  
Lethbridge Chinook Regional Hospital  
Medicine Hat Regional Hospital  
Northern Lights Regional Hospital (Fort McMurray)  
Peter Lougheed Centre (Women's Services and Vascular Renovations)  
South Health Campus  
Stollery Children's Hospital

#### [Alberta Infrastructure Budget Addresses ACA Concerns](#)

The ACA's budget recommendations addressed the need for the government to provide a balance of smart debt management and investment which would protect the industry during the downturn and keep Albertans working in the industry.

Last week the Alberta Government announced \$34 billion over the next 5 years for infrastructure in the budget. This is an increase of 4.5 billion from the Progressive Conservative government budget released in March 2015.

Included in those numbers is a plan for the 200 announced or under construction schools, some of which are delayed, the building of the Calgary Cancer Centre, and transportation expenses on roads and transit.

As part of the plan announced:  
\$3.8 billion for schools  
\$4.7 billion for roads and bridges

\$2.2 billion for health facilities and equipment  
\$4.4 billion in new projects and programs

You can read more on the budget [here](#)

***For more information and news from the Alberta Construction Association visit [www.albertaconstruction.net](http://www.albertaconstruction.net)***

**Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) has a new format for our Industry Update.** Please visit [www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca/industryupdate](http://www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca/industryupdate) to view the Fall 2015 edition. There is also a [printable version](#) of the Industry Update on this page should you wish to forward it to your colleagues and members. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the projects or initiatives, please get in touch with your regular AIT contact to connect you with the appropriate area for more information or contact the AIT Information Line at 1-800-248-4823. We appreciate hearing from you!

Sincerely,

**John St. Arnaud**, Acting Executive Director  
AIT Operations & Client Connections

**Carla Corbett**, Executive Director  
Apprenticeship & Student Aid  
Policy and Standards

Alberta Advanced Education [www.eae.alberta.ca](http://www.eae.alberta.ca)  
Apprenticeship & Industry Training [www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca](http://www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca)

### Board of Directors Update

A Provincial Board meeting was on Friday, October 23rd. In attendance were President Keven Lefebvre, PEC; Mr. Terry Barnett; Mr. Tim Brundage; Mr. Bob Clarke; Mr. Rob Coleman, PEC; Mr. Darrell Castor; Mrs. Jeanette deBruin; Mr. John Knoll, PEC; Mr. Dave Hagen; Mr. Dennis Horrigan; Mr. Terry Milot; Mr. Chris Rauschnig, PEC; Mr. Tim Tarita; Mr. Darcy Teichroeb, PEC; Mr. Hans Tiedemann; Mr. Steve Warholik, Mr. Ray Wery, PEC and Mrs. Sheri McLean, Recording Secretary.

Agenda items included correspondence regarding: AIT Board and Chair nominations; notification from Minister Bilous re: exemption being prepared under Safety Codes Act for PDD (Persons With Development Disabilities Safety Standards Regulation) residences to operate until at least March 31, 2016; notification of ECAA AIT scholarship recipients (individuals will be invited to Awards Luncheon in May); invitation to Employee Benefit Funds Christmas open House. August financials were reviewed (budget on track). Discussion on Membership Director vs Membership Chair as well as Retired PEC membership. Chapter and Committee reports presented.

2017 ECAA Convention/AGMs/Training Day will be held at the Rimrock, Resort, Banff Alberta, May 25th -28th. Membership drive held in Medicine Hat. Goal of Board to get an active Chapter in this area so electrical concerns can be addressed provincially. Chapter Presidents volunteered to attend an information evening in Medicine Hat on Tuesday, April 12th following the Code seminar. An update was provided on 2016 Training Day.

Mr. Mike Gardner made a presentation to the Board on CSA National & International Standards on Wind Energy. Government is looking to shut down Alberta coal in the next five years. Committee investigating why wind and solar do not see each other when grid is down. Concerns or questions can be directed to Mr. Gardner through [ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca)

### Communications Update

The provincial marketing committee realizes that the "re-brand of the ECAA" will have a major impact on the visual look of the association. We wanted to assure our membership that the core values of why we exist and what we do will not

change. We will just look different, and will have strategic messaging to our stakeholders and membership. Our redesigned website is a big project that will look and feel completely different, but will allow for easier navigation and flow with the synchronized marketing approach. The history of the ECAA is a big part of who we are, and the retired logo will find its place there so that is never forgotten. Our membership is very important to the success of the association, and the rebrand is a way for us to move forward as we communicate our purpose. Our committee has worked hard to ensure that we have represented the association well.

To help with some questions that you may have we thought a Q & A might be beneficial:

- Why are we re-branding?

The Board has identified back in 2013 through a planning session with Alberta Culture that some key initiatives are recommended to develop a marketing strategy to increase awareness, value and benefits of the ECAA to the membership and stakeholders.

- Why did ECAA not just re-fresh?

Through the synchronized meetings that took place, it was identified in order for the association to move forward and communicate awareness a rebrand was the only way. All communication follows a strategic marketing plan which communicates through the new logo identity.

- Who decided the new logo and colors?

A provincial marketing committee which includes the communications chair received different options of logo choices. They were created through the information that was generated through the strategic planning sessions held with the marketing company. From the options the top 2 were selected and brought forth to the board as recommendation. The Board made a unanimous decision to pick our chosen new logo identity in July 2015.

- How is the PEC brand connected to the ECAA new brand?

It was recognized that even though both required identity awareness, the PEC holds its own designation and has its connections through ECAA. The PEC program is administered through the ECAA, and holds its own identity. The new ECAA website will have some information on PEC program, but will link you directly to the PEC website. The PEC program will stand on its own and has its own brand identity.

To give you a teaser on what the new identity will capture - below are some of the elements in design:

*Clean, bold, modern, clever, professional*

*Utilizes a friendly green and black, that is welcoming, strong, trustworthy, and ties nicely back to the industry.*

*Jeanette DeBruin*

*Communications Chair*

## Labour Update

### Construction Agreement Bargaining

The Registered Employer Organizations (REO) and the Building Trades of Alberta (BTA) have again followed the Framework Bargaining process utilized in 2010/11 to renew the General Construction Agreements. Bargaining commenced in

September 2014. After only nineteen bargaining sessions there were fifteen major items agreed to for all affected Collective Agreements. Major items include Wage Determination, Special Project Needs, a two break option on ten hour shifts, back to back four ten shift and the updated Canadian Model Alcohol & Drug Work Rule.

The addition of the Framework Bargaining process to the Labour Code Registration Bargaining adds another level of stability to the Unionized construction and maintenance industries. The number of Collective bargaining strikes and lockouts during the approximately 25 years the current Registration Bargaining regime has been in place is exactly zero. The number of Collective bargaining strikes and lockouts since 1986 is exactly zero.

Renewing the Collective Agreements prior to the Agreements coming to term, using interest based bargaining rather than the old style of positional bargaining and increasing Collective Agreement terms common for all trades resulted in the client community and the Provincial Government having greater confidence in the Unionized industry partners. Additionally, this confidence and stability within the Unionized sector spills over into the maintenance sector. Clients are more receptive to employing Building Trade Contractors for routine plant maintenance and shutdown maintenance.

Trade Specific Bargaining with the IBEW commenced last September. Fourteen bargaining sessions did not result in a Memorandum for a renewed Agreement. We completed the Mediation process and the Construction Industry Disputes Resolution Tribunal (CIDRT) heard all outstanding items on July 30th. The CIDRT Award was issued October 23rd. The renewed collective agreement took effect November 1st. The Alberta Labour Relations Code provides binding collective agreement arbitration (CIDRT) for any unsettled agreement once 75% of the 24 general construction agreements are settled.

#### Stand Up For Safety

The sixteen Building Trade Unions of Alberta (BTA) have developed a 6.5 minute video on the importance of everyone intervening in the workplace to prevent unsafe work and conditions.

It is available to view on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XX4sEVFLToY>

A copy of the video on memory stick and Stand Up For Safety Hard Hat stickers are available from the BTA. Call (780) 421-9400

***The Electrical Industry Training Centres Of Alberta*** will be graduating the next class of **PACT** Students November 27, 2015. In addition to passing the First Period AIT Electrician exam and completing our 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, Soft Skills, and now Basic Rigging*. This current class will be available to start work *Monday, November 30, 2015*. If you will be in a position to to take on a **PACT** Student, or have any questions about the program, please contact me or Joel Fundytus at *The Electrical Industry Training Centre*. Thank you once again for all your support!

Link for information about PACT: <http://www.ibew424.net/training/pact.html>

#### Local Chapter Activity

##### **CALGARY:**

**Next Meeting** is Thursday, November 12th, with **Guest Speakers:** Brian Frank, CCIS

presenting on CCIS Electrician Upgrading Certification program. Members welcome to bring silent auction items for December 10th ECAA Logo Launch and Christmas social.

**CENTRAL:**

Next meeting Tuesday, March 8th, followed by CEC Code Update on March 9th.

**EDMONTON:**

Next meeting Monday, November 16th. **Guest speakers:** Myron Vogt, Trenching by Barkman on Protecting Electrical Cable in a Precast Concrete Trench and Terry Becker, on the new Electrical Safety Program "Product in a Box". December 8th ECAA Retirement of ECAA Logo and Christmas Open House. Edmonton Chapter President's Ball Saturday, January 23rd Chateau Lacombe. Tickets on sale now.

**FORT MCMURRAY:** Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at the Chateau Nova Airport with 17 members and guests in attendance. President Tim Brundage updated members on recent Provincial Board meeting, Chapter financials reviewed, new code application on GFCI breakers discussed, Wood Buffalo Annual Apprentice Golf Tournament on June 22, 2016. Amanda Smith, spoke on home and auto insurance benefits for contractors and employees through Allstate Insurance, new member plaque presented to Alain Deveau and Scott Torry, FMR/Casman. Next Meeting, Tuesday, January 12th, 2016.

**LETHBRIDGE:** Next meeting scheduled for January 13th, 2016. Guest Speaker Mr. Terry Becker, ESPS on the new Electrical Safety Program "Product in a Box"

**NORTH EAST:** Next Meeting Tuesday, March 15th in Lloydminster followed by Code Update on the 16th.

**NORTH WEST:** Next meeting Spring 2016.

## New Members

***Welcome New Members!***

**New Contractors:** Benchlands Electric Ltd. (Calgary); Polarity Electric Inc. (Edmonton); Casman Mechanical & Electrical (Fort McMurray); Big West Electric (Medicine Hat); Quick Way Electrical 1999 Ltd. (Medicine Hat); Aurora Energy Controls (Grande Prairie); Alpha Omega Electric Ltd. (Grande Prairie); Christa Youngman Electrical Services (Grande Prairie); Illuminate Electric Inc. (Wembley)

**New Associates:** FBC, (Calgary); FBC, (Edmonton)

**Journey Person Associates:** Dan O'Laney (Edmonton); Mark Maurison (Edmonton)

## Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

**Congratulations Jeffrey Rattray, PEC #295 on obtaining your PEC designation.**

**PEC Committee Report.**

The PEC program continues to busily chug along with the help of many committee members.

The Marketing committee has been progressing through a working group on the new web site design details as directed by the committee. We are processing the

final details for presentation to the PEC's for their final input before we go live to the public. Some of the design ideals may have to wait till next year's renewals as well have to get permission from each PEC as to what we information they would like to share with the public.

The Education committee continues to meet and work on several initiatives. Keeping our courses current and relevant, as well as making sure course review documents are reviewed and action taken where possible. Also of course the work of organizing the training day which will be held in Edmonton this year in conjunction of course with the ECAA and PEC AGM's. Which is taking shape nicely with some very interesting and innovative topics.

The Practice Review committee is also preparing to follow up with PEC's who have not been logging in and entering their APD experience's. It has also been the mandate of the Education committee to start calling delinquent PEC's to see if they need help setting up and or entering their history.

The Registration committee is, as always, and even a little busier as of late, busy reviewing and processing PEC registrations.

This year's membership numbers are as follows:

PEC Number 295 has been assigned.

Active registered PEC's 233

Active registered PEC Student members 70

Active registered CME's 771

Active registered RME's 285

#### **WE NEED YOUR INPUT NOW:**

There have been two meetings scheduled and notices have been sent out to all of our PEC membership. Meeting dates are in Calgary November 12th, 2015 and in Edmonton November 16th, 2015. We will be showing attendee's what the new PEC web site design looks like. The marketing committee and web site subcommittee have been working very hard at getting this phase completed. We are very close to going live to the membership and public with the final details being decided on by the direction of those who attend these meetings. **YOUR INPUT IS REQUESTED.**

We will also be showing the Marketing design that has been developed as well as the process to be used for having our companies and or companies that you work for, use the PEC logo for their advertising and marketing purposes. **YOUR INPUT IS REQUESTED.**

As per the membership's direction from the AGM, new PEC ring designs have been designed as per direction from the Marketing Committee. We will be showing attendees what these designs look like and will be choosing which design we will be using going forward. **YOUR INPUT IS REQUESTED.**

The web site is being designed to be able to have other members or even the public find a PEC who might want to have his or her services available. We will be requesting what that might look like on the PEC web site, for example what information would be shown on the web site, **YOUR INPUT IS REQUESTED.**

We will also be updating the membership on where the APD program is and where it will be going in the next phase, as our first 3 year cycle is coming to a close (December 30th, 2015). As well as a new initiative which the Board of Directors

have struck a subcommittee to look into, this will directly affect our CME and RME designations.

As you can see from my description these meetings are very important in helping us complete the final phase of our newest marketing initiative. It is now time for the membership to decide on the final look and prepare to send out the message. **YOUR INPUT IS REQUESTED.**

Please RSVP if you are able to participate. **YOUR INPUT IS VITAL.**

Clem Gratton, PEC, CME

PEC Chairman.

### **New Arc-Fault Requirements for Dwelling Units** by Larry Cantelo.

The expanded requirements for arc-fault protected branch circuits feeding receptacles in dwellings, as mandated by the 2015 Canadian Electrical Code, have caused quite a stir in the home building industry. Those involved in the homebuilding industry throughout North America are justifiably concerned about the significant cost increase of wiring a house that will occur as a result of the new requirements. One organization in the US has gone so far as to request that both AFCI and GFCI requirements be deleted from local building and electrical codes. This is a radical approach to say the least.

A few years ago the CEC introduced the requirement that receptacles in bedrooms must be AFCI protected. In a typical house this usually meant one or two branch circuits needed AFCI protection depending on how the circuits were wired. Upon adoption of the 2015 CEC, almost all receptacles in dwellings will be required to be AFCI protected. This will no doubt cause a significant increase in the cost of wiring a house. Exceptions to the AFCI requirement are kitchen-counter receptacles (including island and peninsula), the refrigerator plug and a single receptacle for a sump pump.

Research suggests that many residential fires were caused by arcing faults, not by problems with the wiring of the branch circuit but by faulty cords on devices plugged into the receptacles on the branch circuits. The purpose of the expanded requirements is to take fire prevention from faulty wiring to another level. Looking ahead to the 2018 CEC I have been advised that the requirements for AFCI protection of branch circuits will probably be expanded again, this time to include lighting outlets as well as receptacles. As I ponder this possibility I can't help but wonder if the energy that is being expended opposing code requirements that clearly make our homes safer would be better spent aimed at insurance providers. If by installing more AFCI's in our homes we are preventing as many fires in our homes as statistics suggest shouldn't a decrease in insurance rates be expected?

Larry Cantelo, PEC, is the chair of the PEC Education Committee

**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](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)) to register or for more information on the**

program.

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

***Business & Public Relations November 19th & 12th, 2015 (Edmonton)***

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

***Electrical Project Management November 27th & 28th, 2015 (Calgary)***

Practical hands-on skills to learn and apply project management processes and knowledge areas, to reduce project cost through effective purchasing and administration; to avoid paying for others errors or omissions; to recover all costs which you are entitled; effective record keeping to enhance project profitability.

**Objectives PEC Electrical PM:**

1. List and apply Project Management processes (5) and knowledge areas (10).
2. Identify and recover all costs to which you are entitled.
3. Avoid paying for others' errors or omissions.
4. Reduce project costs through effective purchasing and administration.
5. Identify cost overruns - and take corrective action.
6. Use effective record keeping systems to enhance project profitability.

**ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE THROUGH ECAA.**

[www.ecaatraining.com](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca).

**The next issue of The Spark will be emailed December, 2015.**



Electrical Contractors  
Association of Alberta

17725 - 103 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5S 1N8

Phone: 780-451-2412 Toll Free: 1-800-252-9375

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