



ECAA

Electrical Contractors
Association of Alberta

THE SPARK

ECAA NEWSLETTER

May 5th, 2017

Issue 75

In This Issue

[President's Message](#)

[Did you Know?](#)

[ECAA Feature Benefit](#)

[Electrical Safety Program
"Product in a Box"](#)

[Industry News](#)

[Board of Directors Update](#)

[Chapter Activity](#)

[PEC News](#)

[Annual Professional
Development \(APD\)](#)

[PEC Courses](#)

[Online Training](#)

[News from ACA](#)

Calendar of Events

PEC COURSES

[2017 PEC Registration Form](#)

MEETINGS

May 12th, 2017

Calgary Chapter

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

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

President's Message

Spring is coming soon, I promise. It has been a cool wet spring so far. I expect that with all this moisture everything will turn green as soon as the sun shines. Bring on the sun.



We are reviewing proposals from a couple of media consultants and we hope to enter into an agreement soon. Our mission is to promote our organization and let everyone know who we are and what we do. We are the Voice of the Electrical industry in the Province of Alberta!

Our next Provincial Board meeting will be held in Calgary at Best Western Port of Call May 12, 2017. See you there.

ECAA AGM and Convention News

It looks like the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta Convention and Annual General Meeting is going to be very well attended. I am told the room block at the Rimrock is sold out but Sheri has made arrangements for rooms at the brand new Moose Suites & Hotel on Banff Avenue and Banff Rocky Mountain Resort.

May 15th, 2017
Edmonton Chapter

There is still time to register, May 15th is the deadline. This is a great opportunity to rub shoulders with people in our industry from across the province. I recommend that you join us.

May 9th, 2017
Fort McMurray Chapter

We have 82 golfers far. Good turnout! We will have great company. All we need is good weather.

June 15th, 2017
ECAA Open House
3:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Jack's Burger Shack
Food Truck
Blindman Brewing

I am told that this year may be the best year yet for training day. If you do not keep up with the latest in technologies, standards and codes then you will fall behind. Training day offers everyone an opportunity to keep well informed. APD points for PEC's attending.

June 21st, 2017
Wood Buffalo Apprenticeship
Classic Golf Tournament
Fort McMurray

The welcome reception will be held at Brewster's Mountainview Barbeque. Trevor Panczak and the Roughstock Band will be entertaining. Wear your western gear. It is another chance for me to sport my ECAA cowboy hat.

Upcoming Tradeshow

CAREER FAIR:
2017 Skill City
Provincial Skills Competition
May 10th & 11th, 2017
EDMONTON

Saturday is our AGM day. We need to elect new executives, bylaw changes need to be voted on and we need to address the business of our ECAA in a formal setting. Please attend.

Saturday Spousal Activity - High Tea and a Ghost Tour of the Banff Springs Hotel. My wife Elsie is your host.

Robin Esrock will be our Keynote speaker. I had a conversation with Robin and settled some of the details. I know you will find him interesting and informative. You will not want to miss his performance.

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Trevor Panczak and the Roughstock Band will be our band at the President's ball. Let's dance the night away.

This will be my last Spark article as President. I have enjoyed serving this great organization. It has been a pleasure working with Sheri and her staff. I have enjoyed the support of my wife during my time as president. Thank you Elsie. I have found myself surrounded by passionate and dedicated contractors, suppliers, agents, inspectors, electricians and manufacturers. This time has been a personal growth experience for me and I recommend this kind of involvement to anyone. You will get twice as much out of this experience than what you put in. Please find a way to get involved. We need you.

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

In conclusion I would like to quote - Andre Gide
"Believe those who are seeking the truth; doubt those who find it."

Sincerely,

Darrell Castor, PEC, CME
ECAA Provincial President

Did you Know?

That you can combine the amount of hours in our PEC courses and Technical Training Day to qualify for **Canada Alberta Job Grant** for your employees? The minimum amount of hours required has been reduced from 24 hours to 21 hours. Why not take advantage of this and have 2/3rd's of the courses paid for?

Visit Canada Alberta Job Grant [website](#) for more information.

ECAA Feature Benefit

Did you know that ECAA has an online Trading Post? Members can use this tool to create a posting to sell a surplus of electrical material or equipment they may have on hand or to search for product no longer available to purchase.

Contact the ECAA office for more information.

Electrical Safety Program "Product in a Box"

The occurrence of an arcing fault and resulting arc flash (if the voltage is high enough) has a negligible probability if:

1. You have a qualified and competent Journeyman Electrician completing energized electrical work;
2. The Human Performance Behavior of the Journeyman Electrician is "normal"; and
3. The condition of maintenance of the energized electrical equipment that will be worked on is in a "Normal Operating Condition".

Documenting this information in an Electrical Safety Program ensures that the Likelihood of Occurrence Parameters of a Risk Assessment Procedure are understood and applied by a Qualified Electrical Worker. Ensuring the QEW confirms these parameters in the field before completing the work task validates the Risk Level of the work task they have been assigned. Electrical Specific PPE, Tools & Equipment would also be required to manage the severity of an injury if the QEW was exposed to an arc flash.

For more information on how you can license the Electrical Safety Program "Product in a Box" please contact the ECAA.

Industry News

Convention email sent to all delegates if you did not receive this email and are registered please contact us. ECAA drink tickets sold for all events and available for purchase ahead of time or at registration during Convention. **ECAA can not sell drink tickets at the Welcome Reception** so you may use your ECAA pre-purchased tickets however, you will need to pay cash if you did not purchase them in advance. **Convention Golf Tournament is full!** We look forward to a great tournament at the Banff Springs Golf Course. Rooms available at Rimrock for Friday and Saturday night; ECAA pricing not guaranteed. Contact the Rimrock for more information.

Retiring and looking for someone to turn things over to but not ready to sell? Let us know and we will help get the word out.

On behalf of the ECAA, we send our condolences to the Kaiser family.

Ron Kaiser passed away in Kelowna. Ron was the manager for Westburne in Edmonton up until his retirement several years ago. Ron will be missed in the Electrical industry. <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/ronald-kaiser-obituary?pid=1000000185217630>

Thank you to K&L Electric and volunteers participating at the Bi-Provincial Try-a-Trade in Lloydminster.

Congratulations to this years Top Electrical Apprentice, Pavel Kozanov from Calgary (HB Construction Company Ltd.). The Top Electrical Apprentice is an award presented by the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta to honour the apprentice who achieved the highest overall marks in their final period of training.

New Alberta Electrical Utility Code. The new edition of the Alberta Electrical Utility Code came into effect May 1, 2017. For further information on the Electrical Codes in force in Alberta follow this [link](#).

The City of Edmonton is in the process of evaluating the permit and inspection processes and all communication materials related to Safety Codes, Permits & Inspections. By participating in this survey, you will provide insight regarding how to streamline the inspection process and ensure that it includes all necessary components and education to best serve residential and commercial construction. [Click here to participate in this Survey](#)

Register for The Eric Newell "Kidz in Careers" Golf Classic! Thursday, July 6, 2017 [Heritage Pointe Golf Club](#), Calgary AB. Presented by: The Fort McKay family of Businesses [REGISTER NOW!](#) Join CAREER for an evening of fun and fundraising at the Builders of Alberta Reception - Wednesday, July 5, 2017 followed by a day of golf at the Heritage Pointe Golf Club. [2017 Sponsorship Opportunities](#) For more information contact Ericka Folk efolk@nextgen.org or 780-930-2518. To donate an item [click here](#)

Board of Directors Update

Next Board of Directors meeting scheduled for Friday, May 12th in Calgary.

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY: Next meeting **Thursday, May 11th**, Best Western Port O'Call Hotel. **Guest Speaker:** Kevin May **Topic:** Introduction to CaTech Systems - A Data Contractor Working with Electrical in Alberta **Meeting Sponsor:** CaTech Systems

ELECTIONS: Quorum needed! If you are unable to attend please send authorization for another member to vote on your behalf and send to Sheri (smclean@ecaa.ab.ca)

EDMONTON: Next meeting is **Monday, May 15th**, Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Center. **ABJ Robotics Demonstration!**

Guest Speaker: Kevin May **Topic:** Introduction to CaTech Systems - A Data Contractor Working with Electrical in Alberta **Meeting**

Sponsor: CaTech Systems. Meet your Provincial President Darrell Castor who will be in attendance.

ELECTIONS: Quorum needed! If you are unable to attend please send authorization for another member to vote on your behalf and send to Sheri (smclean@ecaa.ab.ca)

ECAA Open House June 15th featuring *Jack's Burger Shack Food Truck & Blindman Brewing.*

FORT McMURRAY: Next Meeting **Tuesday, May 9th, 2017**, Best Western Suites 6:00 pm dinner and meeting to follow. **Special Presentation NECB 2011 Energy Code Impacts on Industry: Dave Hiemstra, Optics Lighting.**

Wood Buffalo Apprenticeship Classic Golf Tournament June 21st in Fort McMurray. [REGISTRATION](#)

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

We have added a new session to Training Day!

A Future Worth Working For...

Dan Olesen, CAREERS Field Director for Calgary and Area

The challenge with youth today: they are unaware of the horizon of career opportunities, and lack the opportunities to explore careers in the skilled trades. The challenge to employers: to build a better local talent pool; with youth that will work, live, and stay. Most parents and teachers do not promote careers in the skilled trades. Dan will highlight how CAREERS is serving as a voice for industry within your community to change the discourse. How employers can effectively and safely work with the education community to capture youth at a pinnacle point in their development and start on-boarding the best emerging talent from their own back yard, while being recognized for their community involvement. Including, the benefits and challenges of RAP. Finally, how increased employer participation impacts a company's bottom line and fuels corporate and community growth. In short, to answer who we are, where are we going, and how are we going to get there? The answer rests with team work, a "can-do" attitude, a strong work ethic, and a willingness to learn!

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

Request for Feedback on PEC Courses. The PEC Course Continuity (PECCC) project was initiated to standardize some of the PEC course materials, to look at potential updates, to provide improved continuity

between the courses, to minimize course content overlap and to identify any subject gaps. This is your opportunity as a Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) or PEC student to provide feedback on course content. We are asking PEC's and PEC students to provide feedback on PEC course content, materials, overlaps, gaps and any other comments on the courses they wish to share. Please send your feedback to peccc@ecaa.ab.ca.

Annual Professional Development (APD)

Upcoming APD Point Opportunities

Technical Training Day & AGM - 1 point per hour of training for each session attended; Attendance at AGM's on Saturday APD points awarded.

Chapter Meetings - See dates above in Chapter update (2 APD Points for each meeting attending adding 1 additional point for special presentations held prior to the Chapter meeting)

PEC Courses - See attached course schedule for upcoming courses. PEC Refresher awarded (12 APD Points) [PEC Course Schedule](#)

Career Shows - Volunteering at a Career Fair qualifies for APD points. **Provincial Skills Competition taking place Wednesday, May 10th & Thursday, May 11th.** Contact ECAA if you wish to volunteer.

Need help?

Contact the ECAA office and we are more than happy to help by answering any questions you have with achieving and entering your APD points.

Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) Courses

Registrations are being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2017.

[2017 PEC Course Schedule and Registration](#)

****New PEC Course Dates Added****

PEC COURSE: ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES has been **cancelled!** Due to lack of registrants and will look at rescheduling for the fall.

Accounting Principles (Instructor Amar Gil) Thursday, June 8th & Friday, June 9th (Edmonton) This course will introduce you to the terms and concepts of accounting and show you how to use them to attain goals and controls for future growth. You will learn practical skills to help you develop, interpret and use financial data, pin-point problem and profit areas, and focus your resources toward a successful electrical contracting business.

Electrical Project Management (Instructor Rob Colclough, PEC) Thursday, June 22nd & Friday, June 23rd (Edmonton)

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.

****Reminder all PEC's retaking courses 12 APD points apply. Reduced course rate of \$60 per course.**

Online Training

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

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

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

Start your training today on www.ecaatraining.com

ONLINE TRAINING

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

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

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

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

Electrical Worker Training Modules:

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

Learning Objectives for Qualified Electrical Workers:

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

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

To purchase this training course visit www.ecaatraining.com

FIRST LEVEL SUPERVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM

This course offers the critical basic skills and concepts needed to supervise a crew in the residential, institutional, commercial, industrial and civil construction sectors. For more information click on the following link [First Level Supervisor Training Program](#) . Course is complimentary to all

unionized electrical contractors and their employees that have a bargaining relationship with the IBEW Local 424.

Course cost is \$400 and to enroll contact Christine chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca

ON-LINE ETHICS COURSE. This course is designed for the Certified Master Electrician (CME) that desires to maintain that designation and for any Registered Master Electrician (RME) or Master electrician that desires to become a CME. Information at www.ecaatraining.com (Ethics course).

News from Alberta Construction Association

Alberta Construction Magazine Ends Publication

For more than 35 years, Alberta Construction Magazine provided content for the industry from an Alberta perspective. In March, the magazine shut down as a result of ongoing advertising sales challenges.

It is unfortunate as ACA has enjoyed a wonderful partnership with the magazine, but changes in the media environment over the past few years continue to affect organizations big and small.

Government of Canada Announces Drywall Support Program

The Government of Canada is providing relief to Western and Northern Canadian drywall contractors and builders who faced unexpected losses due to the duties imposed on imported drywall from the United States. The Program was announced by the Government of Canada on [February 27, 2017](#).

The Drywall Support Program will also provide some relief to residents of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo whose homes were severely damaged or destroyed in the May 2016 wildfires and who are now facing higher rebuilding costs.

The program launched May 1, 2017 and ends May 31, 2017.

More information about eligibility and how to apply is posted on the [Western Economic Diversification Canada \(WD\) website](#).

Apprenticeship Award Recipients Honoured

On Friday, April 21, 2017, the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board Awards honored top apprentices in Alberta. ACA honored two of those top achievers with specialty awards.

ACA Chair Paul Heyens awarded Devon Froland the ACA Top Carpenter Award for 2016. Froland from Hughenden, AB had previously been in the RAP program before entering his Apprenticeship where he achieved a scholarship due to his hard work in that program.

Pavel Kozanov, from Calgary, received the Top Electrician award this year and the ACA W.G. Alexander Memorial award for being the Top Overall Construction Apprentice in 2016. Kozanov previously received top honours in 2014 as a scholarship recipient.

ACA's 2016 two top Apprentices received their congratulations along with Northern Lights Bear glass sculptures and a cheque for \$500.

Commercial Construction Spending in Edmonton and Calgary

In the first quarter of this year, both cities experienced close to the same level of commercial building spending: \$653 million in Calgary and \$634 million in Edmonton (seasonally adjusted). Given the extraordinarily high level of office tower construction in Calgary in 2014 and 2015, the pull-back in commercial spending comes as no surprise. With the high office vacancy rate in Calgary, ATB predicts an even greater drop in commercial construction spending through the rest of 2017.

Overall commercial construction spending in Alberta-including areas outside Edmonton and Calgary-clocked in at \$1.56 billion in the first quarter of the year. That's still down nearly 20 per cent from the record-high quarter (Q1 of 2015), but it's only 6% down from the 10-year average of \$1.65 billion.

Read the full article [here](#)

For more news and events visit www.albertaconstruction.net

Contact Us

If you are an ECAA Contractor or Associate member and would like us to help promote an industry or company event please contact us directly at 1-800-252-9375.

We value your feedback and its important to us. Please submit any comments to smclean@ecaa.ab.ca

The next issue of The Spark will be emailed on June 2nd, 2017.



ECAA

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



Follow us on **twitter**