



ECAA

Electrical Contractors
Association of Alberta

THE SPARK

ECAA NEWSLETTER

April 3rd, 2020

Issue 110

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Calendar of Events

**All upcoming events have been
cancelled or postponed until
the end of June.**

Stay tuned for updates.

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

Greetings,

I hope everyone is doing their part in this time of crisis and our members are staying healthy and safe.

I was in Red Deer in early March for the Chapter meeting and there was a good turnout. Chad Kimmel did a great job running the meeting. I attended the Calgary Chapter meeting before the true pandemic was underway with a smaller turnout than normal, but that was to be expected. Chris runs a good meeting and I thank you for allowing me to speak!



All ECAA events are cancelled until the end of June. AGM and Training Day will be moved to the fall and we will assess closer whether it will be in person with virtual opportunity to take part.

The Government has put out some financial assistance that most businesses can apply for. Please reference the ECAA website (ecaa.ab.ca) as that is where the most current information we have is being posted. I have been keeping in touch with some of our Board and other members across the province to see if they are ok and if they need to vent or talk about what is happening in the world! I truly believe that by just reaching out to the membership it keeps them involved and connected to the industry when self-isolation and staying away from everyone is the new normal! I will keep calling and texting members just to say hey! I ask that all members reach out to one another just to chat! Sometimes that can make all the difference! At least we will have the cleanest hands since we were 2 years old! Lol

[ECAA 2020 Board of Directors](#)

Click on the above link to meet our Provincial Board of Directors

On behalf of my wife Donna and myself I hope everyone stays healthy and safe!

Thanks,
Terry Barnett
ECAA President

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Arc Flash & Shock Free Webinar

A free webinar is being offered to ECAA Member Companies; anyone can attend. Terry Becker, P. Eng., CEM, IEEE Senior Member will be presenting and will answer questions. To facilitate the webinar the following questions have been compiled for initial feedback for the general presentation Terry will provide before the "mic" is opened for any questions.

If you are interested, please take a couple of minutes to complete the following survey: [Arc Flash & Shock Survey Link](#)

This webinar will be held on Tuesday, April 28 10:00 AM - 12: 00 PM.

2020 ECAA Technical Training Day & AGM

ECAA has cancelled the JW Marriott for our Training Day, AGM's and President's Ball in May. The JW Marriott has cancelled all hotel reservations made, but please confirm with them if you have not received a cancellation notice. Any payments received will be refunded; please allow us time to review and process. We will share more details on the date and structure of Training Day and the AGM's as they become available.

Industry News & Updates

On behalf of Anthony Capkun, Associate Publisher with Electrical Business Magazine ***we are asking members to "share stories of inspiration, hope and determination from Canada's electrical community in the face of COVID-19."*** Check out Episode #1 of "Canadians Standing up to COVID" featuring James McKellar of Am-Tech Electrical (ECA Ottawa).

<https://youtu.be/iLHBNzxlsWE>. Please send us your stories and we are happy to share them! Stories can be directly sent to [Anthony Capkun](#)

Prompt Payment Survey Deadline Extended. Ministry of Service Alberta announced a stakeholder engagement survey. We would like to encourage each ECAA member to submit the survey if you haven't already done so. Access to the survey is through the link provided below. The ATCC Executive reviewed the survey and have provided some guidance to the questions. If you are inclined, you can access their responses [here](#).

[Prompt Payment Survey](#)

It's a fact: COVID-19 is disrupting construction. You need to know if projects are getting pushed, put on hold, or outright canceled. Don't get caught short - click a state or a province below to get your free Delayed Projects Report(s) for that state, province, or areas within (cities, etc)

<https://www.constructconnect.com/delayed-projects-report> Thank you CECA for sharing this information

The National Electrical Trade Council (NETCO), having carefully assessed the associated risks of the COVID-19 outbreak and recommendations by Canada Public Health, has officially decided to postpone the **2020 National Training Conference** scheduled to take place May 23 & 24, in Calgary, AB. NETCO is currently exploring a future date for the event and will keep you updated through both email and other NETCO communication channels.

WCB Premium Relief for Employers include a deferral of 2020 WCB premium payments for all private sector employers until 2021. When invoicing resumes in 2021, small and medium-sized employers (those with \$10 million or less in insurable earnings) will only be required to pay 50 per cent of their 2020 premiums - the other 50 per cent will be paid by the Government of Alberta. More details can be found on our [new employer fact sheet](#).

The **National Apprenticeship Conference scheduled for May 24-26 has been postponed**. More information will be released when a new date has been selected.

All Trades Symposium scheduled for April 29th has been cancelled.

Refunds will be made directly from Event Brite to registered participants. Refunds may take up to a week to go through. Organizers are looking to reschedule later in the year.

Both **Provincial and National Skills Competitions** have been cancelled. For more information and updates visit <https://skillsalberta.com/>
www.skillscompetencescanada.com

ATTI has the following IP Red Seal and Masters Prep Courses available via skype. If you are interested please view the attached flyers and contact programs@atticanada.com

[Upcoming Course Schedule with ATTI](#)

[ATTI Course Information Flyer 1](#)

[ATTI Course Information Flyer 2](#)

COVID - 19 Resource Information

Banks Facilitate Access to Relief Funds Through CRA Direct Deposit

[Canada NewsWire TORONTO, April 3, 2020/CNW/](#) - Banks in Canada are working collaboratively with the Government of Canada to offer online enrollment of Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) direct deposit, a convenient and secure way to receive SIN-based government benefit payments, including the new [Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\)](#) for people experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. Effective today, Canadians should visit their bank's website for information on how to enroll for CRA direct deposit or, for those already registered for the service with the CRA, update their account information. Once enrolled, individuals will receive CRA payments such as benefits, credits and refunds deposited directly to their bank account, and will no longer receive cheques in the mail. **Starting April 6**, individuals signed up for direct deposit with the CRA will be able to receive government benefit payments, including CERB, quickly, securely and directly to an account at a Canadian financial institution. Individuals must first determine their eligibility for CERB and

enroll directly with CRA. Payments can be verified by checking your bank statement or by logging into CRA's My Account.

"Banks in Canada are working closely with government to get emergency benefits flowing to Canadians in their time of need," said Neil Parmenter, President and CEO, Canadian Bankers Association. "People that are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 are encouraged to use CRA's direct deposit solution to access funds faster and more directly."

Remember: neither your bank nor the CRA will ever send you an email, text or a link directing you to a page asking for your personal information to receive your benefit payment. These are scams and people should never respond to these fraudulent communications or click on any of the links provided. The direct deposit enrollment link is only available to customers through your financial institution's secured online or mobile banking channels.

For more information, visit the CRA's webpages on [direct deposit](#) and [COVID-19](#). Canadians are also encouraged to visit their bank's website:

[BMO Financial Group](#)

[CIBC](#)

[National Bank of Canada](#)

[RBC](#)

[Scotiabank](#) and [Tangerine](#)

[TD Bank Group](#)

About the Canadian Bankers Association: The Canadian Bankers Association is the voice of more than 60 domestic and foreign banks that help drive Canada's economic growth and prosperity. The CBA advocates for public policies that contribute to a sound, thriving banking system to ensure Canadians can succeed in their financial goals. www.cba.ca.

SOURCE Canadian Bankers Association

The government of Alberta has released a listing of companies and operations that are considered essential and will be allowed to continue operating during the COVID crisis. A complete listing of these activities and services can be found on the government website through the following link <https://www.alberta.ca/essential-services.aspx>.

We know our members have questions and concerns during this unprecedented time and will try to provide updates without flooding your emails. ECAA has been working diligently with other trade associations to protect jobs and keep worksites safe. We were very happy to see the \$100 billion in direct support to Canadian workers and businesses from the Federal government (details on the www.canada.ca). Premier Jason Kenney also announced immediate new funding and supportive measures to provide relief to families, Alberta's most vulnerable populations, local businesses and employers (www.alberta.ca).

Attached are documents ECAA has permission to share with our membership:

1. A [Client Alert](#) on Guidance for Contractors from PA law;
2. McLennan Ross [COVID-19 Workplace Pandemic Planning: What Employers Should Do and Know Right Now](#)

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit is scheduled to be available to individuals starting this Monday. This is the benefit for workers and not companies. It will pay eligible employees \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks.

If an employee was born in January, February or March they should sign up online starting Monday. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ceerb-application.html?fbclid=IwAR3VkADmCh7LLzunNI1Qcy79n49pP9I3luwsaUj9bjm-A3mIL59cRb632mI>

PANDEMIC PLANNING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY Version 2.0- updated March 24th, 2020. As we as an industry approach the current situation these are some best practices and thoughts collected from many in the industry related to how we maintain business continuity despite the situation. On all construction sites, either as a sub or prime contractor, you must do everything possible to follow the advice of Health Officials. *Thank you ACA for sharing this with ECAA members.*

The Canadian Construction Association has prepared the following document **CCA Covid 19 Standard Protocols for Construction Sites**. Questions about this standard? Contact Zack Mullins zmullins@cca-acc.com

Project Suspension Checklist - [Available Here](#)

Overview of various Government programs - [Available Here](#)

Guide to work refusals - [Available Here](#)

NECA Coronavirus Resource Center - [Available Here](#)

COVID and your Construction Contracts shared by the Calgary Construction Association - [Available Here](#)

Canada's COVID - 19 Economic Response Plan - [Available Here](#)

HUB has created a [Coronavirus Resource Center](#) for the most accurate and up-to-date guidance they are providing to clients. This content covers a variety of topics, including insurance coverage considerations, Employee relations/benefits, Retirement plans, market outlook, and more. This resource center will be regularly updated as new information develops, as the landscape seems to be changing under our feet every 24 hours! As HUB is a member of ECAA we are pleased to share this information with our members. Also, HUB recently released a webinar on managing your business through the Coronavirus (and beyond) - you may find this helpful as well. [Link to the webinar replay.](#)

[HUB International Construction Team - COVID 19 Information.zip](#)

Thank you to Daniel McAllister and Randy Singh for sharing.

Federated Insurance has also developed [this Guide](#) to help answer questions you might have about their policies during this time. Please note that the information is specific to Federated Insurance and your members will have to contact their insurance provider for guidance if their policy is with a different

company. Federated would also like to share the following resources that might be helpful.

- [COVID-19 Small Business Help Centre](#). Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)
- [COVID-19: Business Resilience](#). Canadian Chamber of Commerce
- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Being prepared](#). Government of Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada
- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Resources for Canadian businesses](#). Government of Canada, Trade Commissioner Service

Thank you Wayne Budge with Federated Insurance for sharing this information.

Below is an update regarding **Apprenticeship training** during the current Covid-19 situation in Alberta (details www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca). Some key points listed below:

- The March-April and May-June intakes for apprenticeship education are cancelled;
- Apprenticeship students who started classroom instruction on or after March 2, 2020 should discuss tuition refund options with their institutions and will receive priority for fall intake.
- Apprenticeship students who started classroom instruction before March 2, 2020 will be advised by their institution about next steps for distance learning options, assessments and completion. Clients should be advised that their post-secondary institution is developing a plan to determine the next course of action, based on critical learning outcomes.
- Apprentices who complete the program and are in good academic standing will not be required to challenge the provincial theory or practical examinations.
- AIT's attendance policy is suspended during this time to eliminate any confusion about program cancellation or apprenticeship suspension.
- All Apprenticeship and Industry Training exams being written at an AIT office will be suspended until April 1, 2020. Reintroduction of exams will be dependent on the development of a plan that protects the health of AIT staff and clients;
- All practical examinations are suspended until the fall.
- Client Service offices will suspend counter-services until further notice to protect the health of AIT staff and clients.
- Services will continue to be provided online through My Tradesecrets and through the AIT Information Line.
- AIT Officers will be temporarily suspending site visits until further notice.
- Information gathering and follow up on compliance activity will be done by telephone or targeted site visits.

New Members

Welcome!

Contractors: Creative Power (Edmonton); Indigo Construction Services Ltd. (Edmonton); Prestige Electric (St. Albert);
Roadscape Electric (Edmonton)

Associate: Cummins (Edmonton)

Retired: Andy Makelki (High River)

Local Chapter Activity

All upcoming Chapter meetings **have been cancelled for April, May and June**. Elections and regularly scheduled Chapter meetings will commence in September.

PEC Courses

All upcoming PEC Courses have been cancelled for April and May. We are currently looking at various online opportunities and have scheduled **Accounting Principles (April 16th & 17th, 2020) via skype**. If you are interested in taking this course please email chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca directly. **There are very limited seats available, deadline for registration is April 7th, 2020.**

Upcoming Technical Webinars with EPIC

EPIC's Webinars are short, online technical courses which are offered live by an instructor. Epic offers informative general working skills webinars, as well as many technical courses

UPCOMING EPIC WEBINARS

ECAA Members are eligible to receive 10% off using the discount code ECAA.

*EPIC's courses qualify for APD points for PEC's; Continuing Education Units (CEU's) and Professional Development Hours (PDH's).

Online Training Available through ECAA

ONLINE TRAINING -- ECAA MEMBER DISCOUNT AVAILABLE!
use Promo Code **ECAA2018!** to receive our preferred rates. www.ecaatraining.com

ECAA is an approved distributor for **Buildforce Canada** and has the following on-line training courses available for purchase through our office:

- [CNCR - Communication, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution](#)
- [Confined Spaces Safety Awareness](#)
- [Construction Law](#)
- [Construction Project Management](#)
- [Introduction to Building Information Modeling](#)
- [Introduction to Construction Estimating](#)
- [Pipeline Construction Safety Training \(PCST\)](#)

- [Working in a Respectful and Inclusive Workplace](#)

For pricing and access to these courses contact ECAA directly 1-800-252-9375 ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca

FIRST LEVEL SUPERVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM **5 Gold Seal

Credits 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).

ECAA Opportunities

ECAA is currently seeking an instructor to deliver the 2 day Electrical Project Management course for the PEC Program. Commitment is minimum 2 courses per year in Edmonton and Calgary. For further information contact ECAA's Education Chair Jeff Light, PEC education@ecaa.ab.ca. Resumes can be sent to smclean@ecaa.ab.ca

ECAA is seeking an Employer Trustee for the Electrical Industry Insurance Benefit and the Electrical Industry Pension Trust Funds of Alberta; as well as an Employer Trustee for the **Electrical Industry Education Trust Fund of Alberta.** Resumes can be submitted to smclean@ecaa.ab.ca

ECAA is looking to fill this Member Relations position, which promotes relationships among members, demonstrates the value of membership in the Association to both members and the Electrical Industry, while focusing on soliciting new and sustaining existing, members. For further information or to express interest in this position, please email smclean@ecaa.ab.ca

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 May 1st, 2020.



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