



ECAA

Electrical Contractors
Association of Alberta

THE SPARK

ECAA NEWSLETTER

July 3rd, 2020

Issue 113

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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 everyone! First things first, I would like to congratulate Terry Barnett on a job well done! Terry did an amazing job steering the ship as Provincial President during some very challenging times. He also taught me a great deal in preparing me for this new role. I am honoured to represent the ECAA as President for the 2020 - 2021 term. It has been an amazing journey as I look back. My earliest memories of joining the electrical industry as a first year apprentice back in 1984 are filled with gratitude. My cousin Jack Brundage was a long time member of the ECAA and responsible for my indenturing as the owner of Terra Electrical Systems. I am also very grateful for Past President Eldon Dane of Dane Company Electrical for providing me with a very well rounded four year apprenticeship. Both of these gentlemen not only taught me a great deal about the trade, but also about the importance of being an active member of an association that collectively works together to face the industry's challenges head on.



I would like to thank Sheri McLean and her team Christine, Camille and Dorothy for all of their hard work as they successfully organized the recent Membership, Labour, PEC and Associates AGM's. This is a big task at the best of times, but to overcome the recent challenges of Covid-19 and social distancing they really had their hands full. A special thank you to all of you as well for your participation in these events as you too had to work your way through the challenges faced with software glitches including audio and video. I think it would be safe to say that we have all been forced into a situation where we have had to become a little more technically savvy as



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we learn to communicate through our computer screens via, Zoom, Skype, Teams, etc.

It has been an extreme challenge for all of us as we faced circumstances never seen before. Short of what was deemed to be 'Essential Services', the Province was pretty much at a standstill. This naturally had a large impact on our members as new projects were put on hold and spend became virtually non-existent. The majority of us have experienced economic down turns, including low oil prices, however I don't believe any of us could imagine a day where oil took on a negative value and a virus would cripple social interaction. It is at times like this that I am proud of our resilience, and thankful for opportunities to find strength through interaction with one another through this association. There are now some positive signs of recovery on the horizon, all be it they may be slow and gradual.

As we look towards the future we must remain diligent in our social distancing as we move towards the economic re-opening of this great province. Let's continue to look out for one another and provide support where we can. Find fulfillment through volunteering or donating to causes that bring about positive change if you are able. I know there will be much brighter days ahead and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the executive team as well as all of you as we roll up our sleeves and begin to flip the electrical industry back onto its wheels.

I would like to take a quick moment to congratulate Tim Fehr for joining our executive in the role of Secretary. Tim is very dedicated and has always been very passionate about our industry throughout his involvement as Lethbridge Chapter President. Congratulations as well to everyone else on your new or renewed positions within the ECAA. Your time and dedication is not only appreciated, but very necessary and so we thank you. So here is to the year ahead! Together let's turn challenges into found opportunities and from there successes.

Sincerely,

Tim Brundage
ECAA President

What's Available Through Your Associates

Join GESCAN for a UPS and Edge Computing 101 presented by GESCAN and APC on Wednesday, July 8th, 2020 10:00 AM PST.

- Learn how to size and select the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) and battery systems for your project.
- UPS and battery life cycle: when your clients equipment should be upgraded.
- Edge computing. This is an exploding segment in IT infrastructure. Learn how to position your company as an edge infrastructure solutions provider.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[GESCAN July Promo Deals](#)

For more information contact John Speck, Network Infrastructure Specialist 1 (778) 828-1859 John.Speck@gescan.com

APD Points Apply for PEC's

Save The Date

CE Code Update 2018: September 11th, 2020

CEC Detailed Update on Section 10: September 26th, 2020

Training Day Part 2: October 2nd, 2020

STARS Building Magic in the Air Virtual Gala: October 24, 2020

Fire Alarm Refresher Course: October 26-30, 2020

Registration information to follow shortly in July.

Industry News & Updates

ECAA is currently looking to fill the position of Provincial Data Communications Chairperson. The mission of this committee is *'to work with industry to further develop regulations, standards and Codes that would advocate safe work practices that keep our workers safe; promote technical education and provide a road map for future considerations.'* If you are a low voltage contractor in the Province with a passion and commitment to see change in the low voltage cabling and systems industry this is your chance to get involved. Thank you to **Jason Burke** for all your work in steering this committee since 2017. This is a committee position on the ECAA Provincial Board of Directors. For more information or to express interest please contact Sheri McLean (smclean@ecaa.ab.ca)

STANDATA UPDATE. The following joint discipline STANDATA building, fire, elevating devices and electrical are now available on the Alberta.ca website.

19-FCI-016, 19-BCI-022, 13-EDI-00, 18-CECI-007 [Existing Elevator Modernization/Fire Alarm Interface](#)

To view all Building STANDATA [click here.](#)

To view all Fire STANDATA [click here.](#)

To view all Electrical STANDATA [click here.](#)

To view all Elevating STANDATA [click here.](#)

NETCO is inviting people in the electrical trades (at any level) to complete the anonymous "Day to Day Stress Self-Assessment Questionnaire" (will only take 1-2 minutes) and join in on the zoom meeting below. The data collected will be used to guide strategic planning discussions moving forward in the area of workplace psychological safety and health. [SURVEY LINK](#) **Psychological/Suicide First Aid Featuring:** Demetre Balaktsis, "Strategies for Keeping Employees in the

Trades Safe". **July 7th, 2020 2:00 PM (Atlantic Time Canada)** [Register in advance for this meeting.](#) For more information contact *Melissa Young* Melissa.Young@netco.org as this information is being shared on behalf of NETCO.

Built Green Canada is offering a webinar on Indoor Air Quality & Ventilation on Tuesday, July 14. This content is applicable to the building industry alongside you, and all who support it. All are welcomed to attend.

This webinar will look at construction methods and types of products that contribute to the quality of the air within the finished home. It will look at the importance of products that include materials low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and products made from all-natural materials. And, there is a focus on the mechanical ventilation systems in the home, including filtrations and heat recovery. As part of our webinar, there will be a review of benefits and provide practical, affordable suggestions to build better and to earn points towards BUILT GREEN® home certification.

When: Tuesday, July 14, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. PST / 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. MST / 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. CST / 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. EST

Where: Webinar - coordinates to come, following RSVP

Cost: No charge

RSVP: kpodolski@builtgreencanada.ca Please RSVP by noon on Friday, July 10.

New Innovation Project - Best Practices for Industry Engagement.

The **Canadian Apprenticeship Forum** is committed to sharing best practices and experimenting with new tools to help apprentices develop their skills and complete their training. CAF-FCA is inviting employers to learn about a new research project and the tool that is being piloted with 2,000 apprentices. Valid-8 is a software platform that allows apprentices to visually demonstrate learning and progress through multimedia elements such as photos and video. In the UK, Valid-8 has helped apprentices document skills achievements, be more productive, safe and progress in their training. This research project will investigate whether there are similar benefits for Canadian apprentices. The information gathered throughout the research project will influence policy decisions and help create tools and resources that will assist apprentices progress in their training. The [Best Practice Models for Industry Engagement](#), project is funded by the Future Skills Centre, a consortium of members dedicated to helping Canadians gain the skills they need to thrive in the changing workforce. **CAF-FCA is asking employers who hire apprentices in the electrical, carpentry, welding and plumbing trades to attend a one hour virtual demonstration of the tool and to share information about the research project with their apprentices.** Please contact Emily: emily@caf-fca.orgfor more information. [Future Skills Centre](#) Join us on **August 5** for a webinar on the project when we will share insights about the pilot as well as how to get involved! [Register Here](#)

Federated Insurance Update: Every construction project comes with its own set of risks - from fire and water damage to equipment theft, slips and falls, cyber-attacks and even infection control. These risks not only vary in size and complexity but can also evolve over the course of a project. That's why having proper worksite policies and procedures is so critical to avoiding hazards and potential accidents. To help you keep workers safe

and projects running smoothly, Federated Insurance has developed the following risk management resources addressing common exposures:

- [Risks in the construction industry](#)
- [Key infection control guidelines for your job site](#)

This information is being shared on behalf of Wayne Budge, Federated Insurance. If you would like more information please feel free to contact your local Federated Insurance representative.

Alberta Energy Efficiency Alliance Update. There have been some big developments in the EE market in Alberta over the last couple of weeks. First, the Alberta government announced that the EEA agency will be dismantled over the next several months, with closure finalized by the end of September, and the [Commercial and Industrial EE mandate transitioning to Emissions Reduction Alberta \(ERA\)](#), with the exception of energy management offers which are slated to be run by Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP). As well, the Alberta government announced their first tranche of economic stimulus (\$10B), focused on infrastructure and diversifying the economy in high-opportunity sectors (e.g. energy, agriculture) and capital availability to support the technology sector. AEEA has been in contact with representatives of AEP and EEA over the last couple of weeks, and remain positive about the opportunity for Emissions Reduction Alberta to "leverage our industry partners and small- and medium-sized businesses in order to tackle emissions" (Jason Nixon, Minister Environment and Parks) and "build on EEA's expertise and experience" (Stephen MacDonald, CEO of ERA). Key questions remain regarding the specifics of when & how this expanded mandate for ERA will be funded and rolled out - through the Technology Innovation and Emissions Regulation and/or federal stimulus, and when & how potential federal funds, including residential energy efficiency, would be administered in Alberta. Our industry is ready to work as Alberta continues through its staged reopening. I encourage all interested members to connect with your federal MP and Alberta MLA over the next weeks while MLA's are in their home constituencies. Ask for these specifics as follow up on the importance of energy efficiency to your organizations, communities and homes.

Federally, there are still strong indications of a focus on energy efficiency as a key aspect of economic stimulus. Minister O'Regan spoke at the International Energy Agency virtual EE conference last week and reiterated the importance the federal government places on energy efficiency as a key component of addressing climate change. There is indication that the Alberta government is quite open to working with the federal government to channel economic stimulus funds focused on EE, which is more encouraging than when AEEA last met with AEP officials in February.

Alberta Municipalities continue to advance initiatives and offers within available budgets, leveraging the offers from the [Municipal Climate Change Action Centre](#) which will now include municipal support in developing Clean Energy Improvement Program financing models for municipal Council approval and implementation, and the broad range of funding opportunities available from the [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#). There is some indication that FCM offers may expand in the near-term to include funding for engineering studies of individual municipal facilities, and we will also watch for FCM to be another potential channel for additional federal economic stimulus.

The Alliance will continue to influence, advance and promote our industry as much as possible under these policies and government decisions.

ATTI - Red Seal Prep course July 6-10, 2020, IP Red Seal September 14-18, 2020 & Masters Prep Course October 19/23, 2020. For more information and enrollment call ATTI: 604-304-4009; Email: info@atticanada.com www.atticanada.com. Training available via skype!

Congratulations ECAA Award Recipients

The following nominations were announced at ECAA's Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, June 23rd.

Congratulations to the following Lifetime & Honorary Award Recipients:

For lifetime membership, the following must be achieved:

- (1) be a member in good standing for minimum of 15 years;
- (2) serve on a Board or committees for 10 years;
- (3) contributed to the betterment of the Association;
- (4) be encouraged to continue to the betterment of the Association;
- (5) have retired from the Association within 3 years prior.

Lifetime Recipients

DJ Coppens

Kelly Morris

Ken Rogalsky

Ray Wery

Honorary Membership - *Granted as an expression of appreciation for distinguished services to or in the interests of the Association.*

Honorary Recipients

Darren Buium

Bruce Carson

Al Graham

Lyle McConnell

Joe Rogeau

Congratulations to Wayne Budge with Federated Insurance who was nominated as ECAA's Award of Appreciation recipient for 2019.

Wayne Budge is the Manager, Association Partnerships for Federated Insurance. Wayne has been a strong supporter of ECAA since he came into this position in 2007. Wayne has been instrumental in bringing key speakers, presenters and relevant information to our membership through our Provincial Chapters and ECAA AGM's and Conventions.

Wayne has supported Federated reps participating in their local ECAA Chapters and on Chapter Boards. If you want to know any trivial facts (useful or not useful) - Wayne, with his quirky sense of humor, is your man. This ECAA Award of Appreciation is being presented to a very well-

deserving recipient. Thank you Wayne, for all your support of our Association over the years.

Provincial Board of Directors Update

Congratulations to the newly elected 2020-2021 Provincial Board of Directors.

Welcome newly elected Provincial Executive Provincial President **Tim Brundage**; Vice President **Scott Hutton**; Provincial Treasurer **Neil Moffatt** and Provincial Secretary **Tim Fehr**. Continuing on and joining the Executive, **Brian Halina** (Labour Relations Chairperson) with **Brent Connell** as Vice-Chair; **Darcy Teichroeb** as PEC Chairman with **Eric Fadden** as Vice-Chair and Past Provincial President **Terry Barnett**.

Directors include: **Chris Jardine** (Calgary); **Darcy Teichroeb** (Central); **Jason Kuziw** (Edmonton); **Daniel Kuderewko** (Fort McMurray); **Tim Fehr** (Lethbridge); **Keith Urlacher** (North East); **Brandon Thoma** (North West). ***We look forward to welcoming Edgar Garcia as the new Lethbridge Chapter President when Chapter Elections take place in the fall.***

Directors-at-Large; **Terry Milot** (North) and **Andrew McGuire** (South); **Darrell Warholik** (Associates Liaison North); **Cody MacInnis** (Associates Liaison South). Remaining as Public Members: **Susan Rockwood** and **Hans Tiedemann**.

Special thank you to Steve Warholik; Jason Burke; Rob Little and Bob Clarke for their time, dedication and commitment while serving on the ECAA Provincial Board of Directors, you will be missed. Incoming committee Chairs will be appointed by the President prior to first Board meeting.

Industry Appointments: **Dave Hagen** (ACSA/WCB); **Terry Milot** (CECA); **Bert DeBruin** (Electrical Sub Council); **Joe Davis** (Fire Sub Council).

Director-at-Large Update

This report is being shared on behalf of Andrew McGuire (Director-at-Large South) and Terry Milot (Director-at-Large North)

It has come to our attention that contractors are using the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy program as a way to secure projects. There have also been claims that some general contractors/owners are taking advantage of subcontractors and demanding that money be turned over to them, at threat of losing the contracts and work. The intention of the program was to help our businesses bridge the gap until the economy can recover, as per the following from the Government of Canada website,

"As a Canadian employer whose business has been affected by COVID-19, you may be eligible for a subsidy of 75% of employee wages for up to 24 weeks, retroactive from March 15, 2020, to August 29, 2020. This wage subsidy will enable you to re-hire workers previously laid off as a result of COVID-19, help prevent further job losses, and better position you to resume normal operations following the crisis."

The subsidy is there for you to keep your business operating through these hard times and is your money. Please keep in mind that the program is so far slated to end on August 29th and if you are dependent on that subsidy for a tender, it may not be available. If you or if you are aware of a contractor being taken advantage by a GC/Owner for the subsidy, please speak out against their predatory action. As a community of contractors we can be stronger if we stand together.

Thank you.

Instructor Led & Online Training Available through ECAA

ECAA has partnered with PESL to offer the following Instructor led training [PESL July/August 2020 Course List](#). PESL courses approved for Gold Seal & APD Points. For more information on pricing and course descriptions email chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca

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

- [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 chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca

Buildforce courses are approved for Gold Seal Credits & APD Points.

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. Non Union ECAA Member/Non Member cost is \$400. To enroll contact 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).

PEC Courses

All upcoming PEC Courses scheduled for the fall will go ahead following AHS protocols and guidelines. We will also have online

opportunities for the PEC courses and currently looking at which courses will run online - stay tuned for more information.

Local Chapter Activity

We are following recommendations of Alberta Health Services and are hoping to resume Chapter meetings and some events in September.

COVID - 19 Resource Information

Reminder that any new updates are available on the [ECAA website](#)

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 August 7th, 2020.



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