



**ECAA**

Electrical Contractors  
Association of Alberta

# THE SPARK

ECAA NEWSLETTER

August 7th, 2020

Issue 114

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## Join Our List



## 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

As August rolls in we are starting to experience some nicer weather, as there has been no shortage of rain in recent months. With anything, there is always a bright side, and I suppose in this case we could say that everything is lush and green, and that forest fires have been virtually non-existent.



Covid-19 continues to remain front and center in the news and we continue to see moderate increases in active cases in the Province as we continue to work our strategies of re-opening. Alberta currently has 10,500 recorded cases, as compared to 116,500 cases across Canada. Though these numbers appear to be high, they pale in comparison to our neighbors to the south, where the United States is seeing numbers rising towards 4.5 million. There is naturally a great deal of debate surrounding the potential re-opening of schools next month, as well as a recent bi-law enforcement for all people entering into retail stores to wear masks, at least in some of the major cities at this time. Covid also continues to have an effect on the overall economy for obvious reasons. Manufacturing and distribution still face challenges, although there have been some positive gains realized in recent weeks.

Thank you to Sheri McLean and Christine Hryniw for the setting up and administering the meeting with Minister Jason Copping in July. Minister Copping is the Minister of Labour and Immigration and is instrumental in the review of the Regulations surrounding the PM Elect designation. Darcy Teichroeb (PEC Chair), Lou Hiemer (PM Elec Committee Chair) and committee members have done a lot of work towards establishing the basis

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and foundation of the much needed PM Elec designation. We are very grateful to Minister Copping for allowing us some time from his very busy schedule to speak to the Regulation changes as well as the key objectives of having this designation for the entire industry. I can tell you that the meeting went very well as both Darcy and Lou were very crisp and precise in their presentations as always, so a big thank you to both gentlemen, well done. Minister Copping did mention his busy agenda with all that is going on in the way of challenges with workers returning to the work place, but that he would be looking to follow up with us again, possibly as early as September.

Remember to check out the ECAA website as well as the Spark articles for updates and times of upcoming Code Seminars, courses and Chapter events.

I would like to thank all of you for your continued diligence and patience where it comes to managing the balance of social distancing and performing essential services, not to mention taking care of your families and friends. We must continue to exercise this diligence as we move forward and work towards a full and complete re-opening of our economy. Please enjoy your summer and let us hope this wonderful warm weather continues allowing our vital farming community the opportunity to harvest their crops.

Respectfully,

Tim Brundage  
ECAA President

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## Upcoming Training

**CE 2018 Code Update Seminar: September 11th, 2020 & October 16th, 2020 (Virtual & In Class).** These sessions will be held in person following AHS protocols with an option to participate virtually. To register for this update course please click on the following registration form [Fall 2018 Code Seminar Update](#) or use the links below.

**Register online September 11th:**

<https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/september-11-2020-ce-code-update-seminar/>

**Register online October 16th:** <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/october-16-2020-ce-code-update-seminar/>

### **An In-depth Look at Grounding and Bonding Seminar.**

Saturday September 26, 2020 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. (Delivery: Virtual Seminar via Zoom Video Conferencing). **This 6 hour seminar will delve deeply into grounding and bonding followed with product presentations by ABB and Eaton Industries.** Seminar will include definitions of associated terms and look at the reasons for grounding and bonding. Code requirements for grounded, ungrounded and impedance grounded systems will be reviewed. Also included will be a review of the major changes to Part 10 of the 2018 CE Code and a look at the CE changes coming in 2021. *\*Zoom link will be emailed prior to date. \*5% discount applies to registrations of 3 or more persons from the same company*

**Register online:** <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/grounding-and-bonding-seminar-september-26-2020/>

**2020 - 2021 PEC Course Schedule**- See below for more details.

**Training Day Part 2: October 2nd, 2020.** Part 2 will focus more on the General Interest topics. Presenters Include: Wayne Budge; Grant Ainsley; Jane Halford; Sheryl Janke & Cathy White. **For more information on each presentation:** [Training Day Part 2 - Presentations](#)

**Training Day Registration:** <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/training-day-part-two/>

**Fire Alarm Refresher Course: October 26-30, 2020 (EDMONTON).** This course meets the requirement for those journey persons who wish to apply for a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for the maintenance of Fire Alarm Systems, as well as a refresher course for those working in the field. Alberta Electricians certified prior to 1991 as well as journey persons with credentials from out-of-Province will be eligible to receive a PIN upon successful completion of the exam.

**Registration:** <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/edmonton-fire-alarm-training-course-october-2020/>

***APD Points Apply for PECs on all training listed above.***

## **Industry News & Updates**

**ECAA pleased Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy extended to November 21st, 2020.** Details on the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) website.

**31st Annual Bob Carson Classic Golf Tournament is set to go ahead on Wednesday, September 9th at the Highlands Golf Course.** The tournament will look a little different this year to accommodate AHS guidelines. Tee times will be scheduled for each golfer and no banquet will take place following the round. Option for riders to share a cart or ride on their own. Breakfast sandwiches and coffee will be provided along with a few sponsored holes. **Registration is limited so book your spot early!**  
**Registration:** <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/bobcarsonclassic/>

**[Bob Carson Classic](#)**

**ECAA supports the Face Off With CF Gala. On August 13th ECAA will be the featured sponsor supporting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.** In these challenging times it is important to give back where we can. If you would like to support this cause check out their [live online Silent Auction](#). 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to help fund research in finding a cure and supporting the CF community. For more information visit [www.cfgala.ca](http://www.cfgala.ca)

**Congratulations Judy Lynn Archer, Women Building Future's (WBF) Founding President, as she's been awarded the Alberta Order of Excellence.** This award recognizes Judy Lynn's work in building WBF to where it is today, bringing awareness to the importance of women's economic prosperity.

**ECAA welcomes Ken Meredith**, new Executive Director for the Electrical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan. We wish Doug Folk and Howard Jesse all the best in their retirement.

**Built Green Canada** presents **Energy & Envelope Webinar** presented in two parts, with Part I being held on **Tuesday, August 11**, and Part II in September. This content is applicable to the building industry and all who support it. All are welcomed to attend, as together, to collectively work toward a more sustainable, healthier future. **Energy & Envelope, Part I - Webinar:** This webinar will look at construction methods and types of products that contribute to lower energy consumption, as well as alternative heating and electrical systems, and improved building envelope. As part this webinar, practical affordable suggestions to build better will be reviewed. Points will be earned towards BUILT GREEN® home certification. **When: Tuesday, August 11.**

Note time zones: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. PST; 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. MST; 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. CST; 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. EST **Where:** Webinar - Google Zoom coordinates to come, following RSVP. **Cost:** No charge

**RSVP:** [kpodolski@builtgreencanada.ca](mailto:kpodolski@builtgreencanada.ca) APD points apply for PEC's

**EB 2020 Charge-out Rates & Revenue Survey.** Electrical Business Magazine's second annual Electrical Business Magazine survey of electrical contractor Charge-out Rates and Revenues. This survey should only take about 5 minutes, and is completely anonymous. The findings will be published in the September 2020 edition of Electrical Business Magazine. On behalf of Anthony Capkun, thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey. [EB 2020 Charge Out Rates & Revenue SURVEY](#)

**SAFETY ALERT issued by Energy Safety Canada.** Worker crushed when excavator boom moved unexpectedly... Click on the following [Safety Alert](#) to learn more about this incident.

IAEI - International Association of Electrical Inspectors presents **Fall 2020 Education Seminar on Battery - Based Energy Storage.** *[Full refund provided in case seminar is cancelled due to COVID-19]*

**Program: Battery-based Energy Storage Date: September 19, 2020** *(Possible date for re-scheduling due to Covid-19 not confirmed as yet)*

**Time:** 8:00 am to 4:30 pm **Location:** Chateau Louis Hotel and Conference Centre, Edmonton, Alberta. **Pre-registration cost:** IAEI & EIAA Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75 (Must be received by September 12/20)

Registration at door: IAEI & EIAA members - \$75; Non-members - \$100

**About this seminar:** Battery-based energy storage systems (BESS) are being installed in many parts of the world. There are numerous large-scale systems scheduled to be installed in Alberta in the next year. In this seminar Steve Douglas will delve into BESS from beginning to end including permitting requirements, installation standards and the inspection process. Steve Douglas is the Senior Technical Codes Specialist for QPS, an IAEI member and member of the Part 1 committee of the CE Code.

**The IAEI Prairie Chapter invites electricians, contractors, inspectors, engineers, consultants, and students to this Battery-based energy storage seminar. For more information and to register visit IAEI's website <https://www.iaei.org/prairie> PEC APD Point's Apply.**

**COAA AGM will take place on Wednesday October 14th, 9:00 am - 11:30 am.** The agenda will include quickly dealing with required business then moving on to presentations which will be interesting and useful. Taking a conservative approach, the meeting will be held virtually but will design in opportunities to interact with Directors and other presenters.

Save the date for the next **Best Practices Conference booked for Tuesday and Wednesday, May 4th and 5th , 2021. COAA's most active group this summer is the Healthy + Productive Sites Task Group.** They have shared a number of "pandemic" procedures - check out the COAA information page <https://www.coaa.ab.ca/2020/03/22/covid-19-webinars-working-through-the-challenges/> . In their next meetings, they will be starting to look at ideas which could be adopted from other industries or other regions - check back on the information page from time to time. As always, do not hesitate to reach out ([larry@coaa.ab.ca](mailto:larry@coaa.ab.ca) ) if you have any questions or comments. *(This information is being shared on behalf of the Construction Owners Association of Alberta)*

**ATTI - IP Red Seal & Masters Course Dates available for fall.** For more information and enrollment call ATTI: 604-304-4009; Email: [info@atticanada.com](mailto:info@atticanada.com) [www.atticanada.com](http://www.atticanada.com). Training available via skype!

**E.B. Horsman & Son Calgary - moving to a bigger location to better support fast-paced growth!** E.B. Horsman & Son is excited to announce that their Calgary branch will be moving to a new building located down the street (350m away). The new address will be #104-11080 50 St. SE Calgary as of August 24, 2020. The brand new 21,000 square foot facility will replace their current 14,500 square foot location at 10551 50th Street that has served Calgary and surrounding area since inception, in 2017.

The new location is better suited to accommodate growing business and provides ample parking for their customers, office space for EBH staff and a shared work environment for our valued manufacturing partners. The new building will also give greater capability to stock local inventory such as lighting, power distribution, process instrumentation, automation, industrial controls, sensors, data communications, wire, and general electrical supplies in order to better serve customers. *"The new location gives E.B. Horsman & Son a long term home in Calgary and allows us the opportunity to have all of our branch staff and divisional specialists (process, automation, controls, and lighting) under one roof,"* says Adam Dries, Alberta District Manager. *"Our business has grown substantially since entering the Alberta market in 2017, and we are excited to continue investing in the communities we serve. With this expansion we will be able to meet and exceed the growing demands of our customers and move towards our goal of becoming the electrical distributor of choice in Alberta."*

To view this press release [CLICK HERE.](#)

## Provincial Board of Directors Update

Next Provincial Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for September 25th, 2020.

## New Members

Welcome **Contractor Members:** North Phase Electrical (Sherwood Park); Sehlstrom Electric (Bashaw); Sheeler Electric Ltd. (Drayton Valley)

**Journeyperson Associate Member:** Curtis Rinke (Airdrie)

### Local Chapter Activity

**CALGARY:** Chapter President Chris Jardine and the Calgary Chapter Executive invite members to join them at a start of the season **BBQ** on **Thursday, September 10th** from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. **Beverages supplied by:** Inner City Brewing. *Thank you to Canem Systems Group for supplying the BBQ*

**Register online:** <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/calgary-chapter-bbq-sep10/> **AHS protocols for this outdoor event will be followed. Please register by August 26th as numbers will be limited.**

**CENTRAL:** Next Chapter Meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, September 30th.**

**EDMONTON:** Next Chapter Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, September 21st and will be held virtually via zoom!** *Presenter to be confirmed.*

**FORT McMURRAY:** Next Chapter meeting scheduled for **Thursday, September 24th**

**NORTH WEST:** Next Chapter meeting scheduled for **Thursday, September 17th**

*ECAA is monitoring the Covid situation closely and will confirm whether the Central, Fort McMurray & North West Chapter meetings will be held in person or virtually. Please watch your emails for updates.*

### PEC Courses

[2020 - 2021 PEC Course Schedule & REGISTRATION FORM](#)

#### SEPTEMBER 2020

**BASIC ELECTRICAL ESTIMATING (BEE)** September 23rd & 24th, 2020 (EDMONTON) - In person delivery following AHS Protocols. **Instructor: Jeff Light, PEC.** For small contractors who are not ready to make the investment in a computerized estimating system. Designed to teach new contractors the fundamentals of preparing an electrical estimate using the Elemental Format hands-on. The course will address material take-off, pricing of materials, labouring of materials using the NECA Manual of Labour Units, labour costs, special overheads, general overheads and profit/contingencies.

**SAFETY PRINCIPLES** September 24th & 25th, 2020 - Online Delivery. **Instructor: Barry Lawrence.** Legislation recognizes a PEC as an "Employer". This course lays the groundwork to develop a successful safety program, and mitigate additional employer risk. We'll learn to identify

common gaps found in safety systems, simple ways to interpret legislation, and many other valuable tools including: OH&S Obligations (Employer & Worker); Employee Competency; WCB Expectations; Claims Management Strategies; CSA Z463 & Z462.

## **OCTOBER**

**ESTIMATING & FINALIZING THE TENDER** October 1st, 2nd & 3rd, 2020 - **IN Person Delivery following AHS Protocols. (*Minimum Numbers Apply*) Instructor: Chris Reinert, PEC.** This 3-day course will cover types of estimates, organizing the estimate, labor units, computer estimating and finalizing the tender. Goals of this course include how to do an estimate using a set of drawings and specs applying take off terms and procedures to finalize and submit tender documents and develop an estimate in a format that can be used as a Project Management tool.

**ELECTRICAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT** October 7th & 8th, 2020 - Online Delivery. **Instructor: Phil Perry.** Once given a successful bid package, you will develop an awareness of how to apply ten project management knowledge areas and five processes to derive a project charter and project schedule. From here you will then learn how to manage the project to successful commissioning and close out.

**BUSINESS & PUBLIC RELATIONS** October 15th & 16th, 2020 - Delivery to be confirmed. **Instructor: Brian McCready.** Learn proven management concepts in the areas of managing business strategy, direction for improved performance, credit and collections, time management, managing required human resources concepts, business promotion and public relations, selling and customer service focused business. This will immediately begin improving the performance and profitability of your electrical contracting business.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS** October 22nd & 23rd, 2020 - Online Delivery. **Instructors: Michael Bokhaut & Matthew Kachur.** This course will increase your awareness and understanding of legal issues and pitfalls common to electrical contractors. The course will also address incorporation, income tax and GST, construction contracts, subcontracts and liability thereunder as well as how to ensure payment for your work - including remedies available under The Builders' Lien Act.

## **NOVEMBER**

**ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES** November 4th & 5th, 2020 - Online Delivery. **Instructor: Clayton McCrae.** This course will introduce you to the common terms and concepts used in accounting, along with showing you how to use accounting tools to attain goals, analyze your business, and create strategies for future growth. The goal is to develop awareness of how to read financial reports to understand your companies financial position. You will learn practical skills to help you develop, interpret and use financial information, identify problems and opportunities, and focus your resources toward a successful electrical contracting business.

**[2020-2021 PEC Course Dates & REGISTRATION](#)**

## Instructor Led & Online Training Available through ECAA

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

### 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](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca)

The next issue of The Spark will be emailed on September 4th, 2020.



**ECAA**

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