



**ECAA**

Electrical Contractors  
Association of Alberta

# THE SPARK

ECAA NEWSLETTER

July 5th, 2021 | Issue 125

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **CHAPTER MEETINGS**

Start up again in the fall.

### **UPCOMING TRAINING**

#### **[2021 Code Update Training Schedule](#)**

**July 6th, 2021**

Zoom Only

**August 6th, 2021**

Zoom Only

#### **1 Day Arc Flash & Shock Training**

Virtual Instructor led

**Wednesday, July 21st, 2021**

**[Register Here](#)**

#### **PESL Virtual Instructor Led Training**

View the attached training schedule.

For more information or to

register: [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)

## President's Message

As I wrap up the weekend from celebrating Canada Day with my family I am reminded how fortunate we are to live in this country and great province. We have all managed to make it through some of the warmest weather we have seen in Alberta in over 60 years, our thoughts go out to those in British Columbia that are enduring the threat of fire.



The pandemic has released its grip on us and we can now enjoy fewer restrictions. Please be mindful and understanding of those people and business's that choose to maintain some of the precautions.

We hope to see many of you out on July 8th at the ECAA BBQ that will occur after our first Provincial Board meeting with new members of the Board and our new Executive Director Robin Bobocel.

Hoping everyone enjoys the summer.

Respectfully,

Visit our website

Scott Hutton  
ECAA Provincial President

[ECAA 2021-2022  
Board of Directors](#)

## 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 so have added this feature into the Spark.*

**Getting to Know Your Calgary Chapter President Cam McIntosh, PEC**

**Company:** Western Electrical Management

**Family Members:** Kristin (my wife), Makenna (14 daughter), Brexten (7 son)

**When and how did you start in the industry:** Started in the trade in 1999 with Western, moved from a small town in BC to get my ticket. Still here!

**Favorite hobbies:** Winter – Skiing. Summer – Mountain biking, boating

**Favorite TV show:** Can't say I really have any

**Favourite Sports Team:** Two – NFL Seattle Seahawks, NHL – Calgary Flames. Go Flames Go!!

**Most memorable vacation:** 2016 Hawaii as a family and with my parents as well

**Affiliations with other associations:** Company Affiliations – Calgary Construction Association, Canadian Fire Alarm Association

**Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices:** Work through your schooling as soon as you are eligible for the next year, don't wait "for a better time" as this comes with a pay raise each time also which is great! Don't be afraid to continue learning and taking courses even after you get your ticket.

**Favorite ECAA memory:** So far I would say the AGM in Jasper a couple years ago, amazing setting with a great group from all over Alberta

**Best part of ECAA is:** Education and networking, getting to know so many people in the industry.



**Getting to Know ECAA's Executive Director Robin Bobocel**

**Company:** Occasionally, good

**Family Members:** Wife – Kristiena; Daughter 1 – Thea (15); Daughter 2 – Ava (13); Dog – Nixon (Bullmastiff)

**When and how did you start in the industry:** June 15, 2021

**Favorite hobbies:** I love to travel and ride my motorcycle. Outside of that, I'm in the midst of a constant state of home renovation (I suppose that's a hobby)

**Favorite TV show:** Yellowstone, Brooklyn 99, Billions

**Favourite Sports Team:** Oilers, Bills, Red Sox and the Edmonton Elks.

**Most memorable vacation:** Italy with my wife, where we planned an entire trip around having lunch at a specific restaurant.

**Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices:** Don't forget to join the ECAA when you become a journeyperson!

**Favorite ECAA memory:** Looking forward to making many of them in the years to come.

**Best part of ECAA is:** The team that I get to work with, and the industry I get to support!



## Upcoming Events



**Summer BBQ July 8th, 2021 3:30 pm |**  
ECAA Provincial Office. Join us for a burger  
and some refreshments provided by Dog  
Island Brewing.

**Register**

Here: <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/ecaa-summer-bbq/>

[Summer BBQ](#)

**Table Top Displays:**

**Jason Ponto EECOL Electric**

**Nicole Kurzhals Guillevin International**

**Megan Barclay Prolux Lighting & Controls**

**Joe Davis Ainsworth Inc**

**Jarand Helfrich Finning**

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**Wood Buffalo Apprenticeship Classic Golf Tournament** Wednesday, August 18th Fort McMurray Golf Club (8:00 am Shotgun Start)

**Join our Fort McMurray Chapter to help raise funds for scholarships for Electrical Apprentices attending Keyano College. Support our Industry!**

All welcome to participate.

**Registration & Sponsorship Information**

Here: <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/wbclassic/>

**For more information contact:**

Maryse Lessard 780-747-4697 [mlessard@wesco.com](mailto:mlessard@wesco.com)

Tim Brundage 780-799-9690 [tim.brundage@stuartolson.com](mailto:tim.brundage@stuartolson.com)



**Wood Buffalo Apprenticeship Classic Golf Tournament**



Wednesday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Fort McMurray Golf Club  
Fort McMurray, Alberta  
8:00 am Shotgun Start

## Industry News

### Update Regarding Residential System Grounds from Epcor & City of Edmonton.

#### [Ground Electrodes for Residential Services](#)

#### [Shaping Secondary Cable in Epcor Transformers](#)

This update was rolled out jointly by **The City of Edmonton & EPCOR to the Canadian Home Builders Association (CHBA)**. *Details will also be included in the July Building Edmonton Newsletter issued by the City.*

*Please see the following from Gerry Wiles, Chief Electrical Inspector, City of Edmonton*

There has been a problem with system grounds, mostly ground plates and wire in new homes. Some of these problems have been the installation at the time of the build (not providing a good ground), others have been on zero lot line homes where the ground plates are exposed or ground wire cut during the dig for the next new home beside the existing home. This is a serious safety issue.

To fix the problem we will move to the following installation method.

- Starting August 1, 2021 all ground plates shall be installed inside the basement of a new home 600mm below finished grade (top of basement slab) and will be inspected as part of the service inspection.
- There will be an option to install 20 ft. of copper wire in the footing but this will require an inspection at the time of installation and there will be an additional inspection fee if done this way.
- Please see attached notice from EPCOR Distribution with additional details.

#### **All inquires can be directed to AJ Ould (Epcor)**

AJ Ould, PMP  
Manager, Project Execution  
Customer Connections  
Electricity Operations  
p. 780.412.3437

c. 780-975-5993

e: [aould@epcor.com](mailto:aould@epcor.com)

Or Gerry Wiles (CoE) [gerry.wiles@edmonton.ca](mailto:gerry.wiles@edmonton.ca)

**Effective immediately, there will be no requirement for the power and gas riser to maintain a minimum distance of 1.2m separation as outlined in the current Installation Guide for New Residential Utility Service 2020 located [here](#).** Instead, the need for the builder to meet the requirements outlined by ATCO in the following diagram will be required. This pre-existing 1.0m requirement from the service regulator vent to a source of ignition (including vents/exhausts/water sources, etc.) ensures CSA B149 Gas Code and relevant Electrical Code are met. Should the builder not be able to maintain these minimum clearances, the builder may be subject to:

- failed final inspection by the City of Edmonton, or
- gas meters being locked off by ATCO

**Inquiries can be sent to Gerry Wiles, Chief Electrical Inspector [gerry.wiles@edmonton.ca](mailto:gerry.wiles@edmonton.ca).**

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**In case you missed it National Energy Code for Buildings Online Training is Free! CSA Group** is offering free self-directed courses and video checklists to assist with compliance with the National Energy Code for Buildings 2017. Online training for the National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings (NECB) 2017, published by the National Research Council of Canada (NRC), is now available in English and French. These resources are designed to further user knowledge and adoption of the NECB 2017, contributing to the improved energy efficiency of new buildings and helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. You can obtain these resources [here](#).

Source: <https://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/free-national-energy-code-for-buildings-online-training/>

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**Let the Alberta Jobs Now Program help your business recover.** Alberta's government is committed to helping businesses recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and the economic recession. As part of Alberta's Recovery Plan, businesses have an opportunity to give their workforce a boost by hiring new employees.

The Alberta Jobs Now Program provides funding for eligible employers to subsidize wages, fund training or a combination of both, for new hires. If your organization is eligible, the Alberta Jobs Now Program offers a wage subsidy or training subsidy of 25%, up to \$25,000 for each employee, for up to 20 full time new hires.

Applications are being accepted now. **The application deadline for the first Alberta Jobs Now Program intake is August 31, 2021.** All Alberta Jobs Now Program applications must be submitted via the Alberta Jobs Now Program Portal. This online application is an easy and efficient way for employers to apply to Alberta Jobs Now Program. For details, check the [application guidelines](#) and access the Alberta Jobs Now Program Portal at [alberta.ca/jobsnow](http://alberta.ca/jobsnow).

Source: <https://www.alberta.ca/jobsnow>

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**NAIT Corporate and International Training** has the following [professional development](#) certificates available. Take the next step with your organization's corporate training and upskill your team.

NAIT has three types of training available for organizations:

- Group Registration - Find a currently scheduled NAIT course or certificate and contact us to register your team. Ask about discounts for group registrations.
- Corporate Training - Select a NAIT course or certificate and arrange for customized delivery that accommodates your scheduling needs.

- Custom Program Design - We will design a program from the ground-up that meets your specific business requirements.

To make an inquiry, click on the [Custom and Group Training](#) form. See below to see NAIT's certificate programs that may be a fit for you.

**Available certificates include:**

[Crisis Communications](#)

[Crisis Management Essentials](#)

[Leadership Development](#)

[Project Management](#)

[Workplace Essentials](#)

[AI Strategy and Management](#)

[Business Intelligence and Analytics](#)

[Lean Six Sigma Green Belt](#)

[Excel for Business](#)

[Conflict Resolution and Negotiation](#)

For more information contact NAIT Industry Solutions and Corporate Training, 780.378.5044 or

Email: [cittraining@nait.ca](mailto:cittraining@nait.ca)

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**[The Canadian Electrical Contractors Association \(CECA\) Working for You!](#)** The following [letter](#) is being shared on behalf of Greg Whitty, CECA Operations Manager, on CECA's next steps and insights from updating their strategic planning process. As a member of ECAA, you are affiliated with our national organization and entitled to discounts on training and publications such as NECA Manuals, Canadian Electrical Installation Standards (CEIS) and Job Site Journals. For more information about your membership benefits connect with Camille ([caustin@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:caustin@ecaa.ab.ca)).

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**Safety Management Survey by HSE International.** HSE is studying how local companies are investing in their business and their people to help manage the OHS challenges they have faced over the past 12 months. The survey will take about 15 minutes of your time. For your participation, you'll have a chance to win the latest iPad, courtesy of HSE International. There will be an opportunity to enter at the end of the survey.

**Take the survey now by clicking on the below link and please pass this along to any colleagues or clients who could also share their insights.**

**Take the Survey Now:** <https://forms.gle/XQn8ta7A35QFrc67>

**Incentive prize program begins May 4, 2021 and continues until August 10, 2021.** For more information please visit [hseigroup.com](http://hseigroup.com) and read the Survey Incentive Price Official Rules within our Terms and Conditions. The final results of this survey will be available on their website to help provide a benchmark for all businesses within Canada.

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***Congratulations to Randy Taylor*** who has retired after 12 years on the Alberta Community & Co-operative Association (ACCA). **[To read the complete announcement click here.](#)** Vicki Zinyk was recently elected as Board Chair succeeding Randy Taylor. ***Congratulations Vicki on this appointment.*** **[Read the full announcement here.](#)**

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***Wishing Don Kuziw, Member Relations for ECAA,*** a speedy recovery following his recent surgery. We are all looking forward to seeing Don at the Chapter meetings in September.

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### ***Congratulations on 50 years***

#### **Noramco - 50 Years of History**

Noramco is celebrating 50 years in business by bringing you great content, prizes and more from some of their most trusted vendors. Each month they will feature one vendor partner and by purchasing \$1000 worth of their product you will be automatically entered to win.

For more information visit: <https://noramco.ca/50th/>



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***Congratulations on 30 Years.*** 2021 marks the 30th anniversary for Provincial Pole Specialists Inc. (PPSI). Over the past three decades, PPSI and its sister company, Central Pole Inspection and Maintenance, Inc. (CPIM), have grown to be collectively the largest utility pole maintenance providers in Canada. They treat over 250,000 poles each year for central Canada's major energy companies and offer a wide variety of infrastructure maintenance and resiliency services throughout the country.

**Source:** [The Electricity Forum](#)

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***Our condolences to the friends and family of Merv Ellis*** on his passing. Merv served the Alberta Construction Association for 25 years and was also key to the foundation of the Alberta Construction Safety Association (ACSA). [Click here to read Mervin's full obituary.](#)

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**Work outside all day? Learn about UV and how to protect your eyes.** Summer is finally here and for those of you who get to work outside all day you'll need to take care to manage the UV exposure to your eyes. UV is an abbreviation for ultra-violet, and it is part of the sun's energy that is invisible to the eye but can cause harm. When our eyes are unprotected, UV exposure can increase the risk of cataracts, macular degeneration, photokeratitis (snow blindness) and other eye diseases, including cancer. Fortunately, protection is easy, affordable and accessible with the use of UV-protected sunglasses and UV-coated safety eyewear. [Read more...](#)



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## **Out of Country Convention Update**

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It's exciting that we are seeing the light at the end of this very long Covid tunnel. Our borders are projected to finally open, and the mandatory quarantine has been lifted for returning Canadians that have been vaccinated.

Please find the detailed Safari Itinerary. I've also included the Gorilla Trek extension as we do have a few openings for this, once in lifetime experience.

[ECAA African Safari Itinerary](#)

[Uganda Gorilla Experience](#)

Registration

Link: [https://forms.logiforms.com/formdata/user\\_forms/81634\\_4874682/383216/page1.html?cachebuster=3237](https://forms.logiforms.com/formdata/user_forms/81634_4874682/383216/page1.html?cachebuster=3237)

#### **Brief Update:**

#### **Kenya is Open to Visitors**

We continue to communicate directly with Kenya, and they are now open for visitors with proof of a negative Covid-19 PCR-based test. Many countries in Africa have experienced past pandemics and therefore their safety protocols are very sophisticated and streamlined in comparison.

#### **Deposits**

##### **We've extended our deposit deadline until August 2nd.**

We've been pushing the deposit deadline out with suppliers but now lodges are beginning to sell out due to the pent-up demand. If deposits are required sooner, we will contact you with proper notification.

#### **Cancellation and Medical Insurance**

Manulife is offering cancellation insurance.

Please contact Jackie Abello in our office and she will be happy to explain the details.

Jackie's contact information is below.

#### **Flights**

Jackie Abello in our office will be organizing group space for flights.

KLM has confirmed that they will resume their flight schedule from Edmonton and Calgary to Amsterdam.

Flight schedules are frequently changing to accommodate demand as travel begins to open.

Jackie is working on group space and will have pricing shortly.

All international airlines require that travelers test negative for Covid-19 within 72 hours of boarding a flight, in both directions. Vaccinated Canadian visitors to Kenya are welcome without restrictions but still require proof of testing negative for Covid-19 upon arrival.

#### **Vaccinations for Kenya / Uganda**

Yellow Fever Vaccination

All visitors to Kenya and Uganda are required to have proof of a Yellow Fever vaccination.

If you have not received your vaccination, please consult with your doctor or your local immunization clinic.

##### **Please Note:**

The risk of Yellow Fever is very low, Kenya has not experienced Yellow Fever since 1992, and it was only detected in a rural area.

Malaria is also a very low risk and Malaria pills can be purchased from your doctor or vaccination clinic.

Hepatitis A and B shots are always recommended for all travel to tropical or subtropical destinations.

### Pre and Post Extensions

We are happy to provide information for other pre or post experiences to any destination. Please contact us and we will do the research and provide the details.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact myself or Jackie Abello in our office. Jackie can be reached at [JAbello@NetworkTravel.ca](mailto:JAbello@NetworkTravel.ca) or on her direct line at 780-454- 4933 ext.: 103 or Toll Free: 866-604-8714 ext.: 103

Thanks so much for your patience.  
We will be in touch again soon with further updates.

**Rick MacSwain**  
**Managing Director**  
Edmonton Alberta  
Office: 780-454-4933 Ext.: 102  
Cell: 780-990-2506  
Toll Free: 866-604-8714  
E: [RMacSwain@NetworkTravel.ca](mailto:RMacSwain@NetworkTravel.ca)  
[www.NetworkTravel.ca](http://www.NetworkTravel.ca)



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## Local Chapter Activity

### CALGARY CHAPTER



### SAVE THE DATE

**Calgary Chapter BBQ Social** hosted by Chapter President Cam McIntosh and the Calgary Executive

Mark Your Calendars  
**Thursday, September 9th | 5:00 pm**

Table Top Displays & Door Prizes and more!

Contact Camille for more information: [caustin@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:caustin@ecaa.ab.ca)

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## EDMONTON CHAPTER



**32nd Annual Bob Carson Classic Golf Tournament | Wednesday, September 8th, 2021 | Highlands Golf Course**

Registration details to follow shortly! **For sponsorship inquiries please email Christine [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)**



### SAVE THE DATE

Join Edmonton Chapter and the Edmonton Executive at our fall kick off party.

### End Zone Party

Saturday, September 11th | 5:00 pm  
Edmonton Elks vs. Calgary Stampeders

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*Next Issue of The Spark will go out Friday, August 2021*



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**Contact Us**

If you are an ECAA Contractor or Associate member and would like us to help promote and industry or company event please contact us directly [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)

We value your feedback and its important to us, send us your comments and feedback.

**Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta**  
[ecaa.ab.ca](http://ecaa.ab.ca)

