



# THE SPARK

## ECAA E-Newsletter

October 4, 2013 Issue 33

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### Quick Links

[www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)

### Calendar of Events

#### **Upcoming CEC Code Changes**

##### **Seminars:**

*October 10th  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Hotel Blackfoot  
Calgary*

*New Dates are currently being confirmed for*

*Calgary & Edmonton.*

*Stay tuned as dates will be advertised.*

*(These courses approved by Electrical Technical Council to meet re-certification requirements for Master Electricians and Safety Codes officers )*

Want a code course in your local Chapter? Contact ECAA - when minimum numbers met we will be happy to schedule one.

**Upcoming PEC Courses**  
*Computer Estimating for*

OCTOBER/2013

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

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

### President's Message

September has been a very busy month for the Association and all involved, my presidential business cards came in handy when meeting all the new people at the meetings.

August 27th Mr. Tom Vivian from CECA gave us a presentation regarding Standard Practices. Thank you Ron Mackenzie, our CECA representative, for arranging and setting up the meeting in the board room at Custom Electric in Calgary.

September 5th the ECAA was invited to attend the 20th Anniversary Gala for the Safety Codes Council, celebrating 20 years of safe communities. I would like to congratulate Mr.

Les Dzwonkiewicz,  
PEC

Brian Alford, CEO and all involved for a great function. Sheri, Darcy and myself attended the gala on behalf of the ECAA and we look forward to continue working closely with the Safety Codes Council in years to come keeping Albertans safe.

September 12th I attended the Calgary Chapter meeting and what an awesome showing of our members who came to meet The Honorable Danielle Smith. It was a great evening having Danielle as a guest speaker at the meeting who spoke on many subjects regarding our province and the flooding in southern Alberta. Thank you to Doug Miller our Calgary Chapter President for a super evening.

September 16th I attended the Edmonton Chapter meeting which was another super evening with Simplex Grinnell giving a presentation on new ideas and installations. We had an excellent turn out by our members and the meal was very good, I ate too much. Thank you to Eric Fadden our Edmonton Chapter President for a great evening.

We had a very busy day on September 24th as that was our Strategic & Succession Planning workshop looking into future planning on setting and achieving goals. We had a very fruitful day with great participation for all our board members.

September 25th was my first board meeting as your new president; all went well. On October 1st I attended the Central Chapter meeting in Red Deer. Central Chapter President Darcy Teichroeb had a great turn out with presentations made by Collicutt Energy and Federated Insurance. Following my trip to Red Deer, on October 2nd another chapter meeting was held in Lloydminster. North East Chapter President Terry Barnett also had a good turn out with some very good discussion.

Till next month, I leave you with this quote by, Henny Youngman: "*When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.*"

Regards,

*Small Projects*  
**October 25th & 26th (Edmonton)**

*Accounting Principles*  
**November 21st & 22nd**  
**(Calgary)**

*Business & Public Relations*  
**November 28th & 29th**  
**(Edmonton)**

Tradeshows

THANK YOU TO OUR  
**VOLUNTEERS at the Alberta**  
Employment & Career Fair  
held on October 4th & 5th at the  
Edmonton Expo Center

Join Our List

Social Networking

Les Dzwonkiewicz PEC  
President

### Testimonials Requested

Membership Chair Steve Warholik is requesting testimonials from ECAA members to include in a marketing brochure. Testimonials can reference

**Why you joined ECAA? or How has being a member benefited you? or Most memorable ECAA moment.** Please email [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca). A \$100 KEG gift certificate will be drawn from those who reply.

### Industry News

**Industry Technical Council Update: *Canadian Electrical Code 22nd Edition in Effect.*** Order-In-Council signed that amends the Electrical Code Regulation to adopt the 2012 Canadian Electrical Code, 22nd edition; the 2012 Code for Electrical Installations for Oil and Gas, 4th edition; and the 2013 Alberta Electrical Utility Code, 4th edition. **All three codes come into force or become law as of October 1, 2013.**

**ULC Approvals of Fire-Rated cables** has been re-instated with related information and approvals listed on the Alberta Municipal Affairs website under "Safety Codes - Electrical - Advisories".

**CEC Section 32 regarding circuit feeding fire alarm panels.** Electricians and Safety Codes Officers (SCO's) are interpreting the over current device must be installed in the closest panel board to the main service. In very large buildings this can be very difficult. The code states "as close as practicable" which allows for alternate panel boards in these cases. The current STANDATA will be re-drafted to clarify this situation. **Code books available through the ECAA office and your local Chapter meetings.**

To order your copy today fill out the following form:

[ECAA 2013 Publication Order Form](#) and fax back to 780.455.9815.

**Objective Based Industrial Electrical Code (OBIEC)** was defeated at the Technical Coordinating Committee The issue is currently dropped. The electrical utilities representatives have forwarded a **decision to not allow** the utilities supplied "economizer" (Pole mounted disconnect and splitter) to be used as the CEC required service disconnect for rural installations.

**Division 16 Curling League** BEGINS: Oct. 2, 2013; WHERE: Avonair Curling Club 10607 Princess Elizabeth Ave. DRAW TIME: 6:00 pm, Wednesdays \$310.00 (per person) **Contact:** Ray Sheskey Brews Supply PH: 780 452-3730 FAX: 780 455-4422 or Dwight Hunter Leviton PH: 780 475-5575 FAX: 780 475-2536 On October 24th, the **Canadian Fire Alarm Association, Alberta Chapter will be presenting its Annual Technical Seminar.** This is an all-day event where speakers will address topics of current interest to electrical contractors in Alberta. Details for the seminar are: **Time:** 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM **Location:** Deerfoot Inn & Casino (1000, 11500 - 35th Street SE Calgary, Alberta, T2Z 3X1) For more information please contact the CFAA at 1-800-529-0552 or e-mail [admin@cfaa.ca](mailto:admin@cfaa.ca) / [www.cfaa.ca](http://www.cfaa.ca). **Registrations only accepted online and must be received prior to Tuesday, October 22nd.**

**Last Chance for Building Magic in the Air Gala tickets.** Join the construction industry for an evening of enchantment and allure in support of STARS. All supporters will have their company's name featured on all Gala promotional material, the STARS and the Alberta Construction Safety Association website as proud supporters. All donations are eligible to receive a tax receipt. Contact [magicgala@stars.ca](mailto:magicgala@stars.ca) or (780) 890-3145 to reserve tickets or for more information. **Tech Skills Resources.** Are you experiencing electrical skills and labour shortage issues at your company? Tech Skills Resources can deploy the workers you need to get the job done.

Tech Skills Resources supplies workers from Ireland and the UK to Canadian employers in need of skilled tradespeople. Our specialties include: Construction, Engineering, Power & Energy, Oil & Gas + Mining, Manufacturing & Production, CAD, Architecture, Facilities / Utilities / Telecoms

- Tradespeople from Ireland and the UK have strongly transferable credentialing, training, experience and can meet Canadian workplace and safety expectations quite easily
- Irish and UK credentials are recognized in Canada, workers have a very strong work ethic and their first language is English

For more information and complete details on the disciplines we can provide, please contact Joy Cohen, Business Development, Tech Skills Resources:

Calgary Tel: (403) 457- 5500

Edmonton Tel: (780) 665 - 4950

Toll Free in Canada: 1- 877- 939 - 0997

E-Mail: [joy@techskills.ie](mailto:joy@techskills.ie) Website: [www.techskills.ie](http://www.techskills.ie)

It's your last chance to nominate your most impressive construction projects of 2013 for an **Alberta Construction Magazine Top Project Award!** The submission deadline is one week away! Winners will be featured in a prominent position in Alberta Construction Magazine's Winter 2013 issue and recognized when the results of judging are revealed at our Top Projects Awards Luncheon, scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013, at the Markin MacPhail Centre at WinSport's Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, Alta. Nominate your project in one of the following categories:

- Commercial
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Civil
- Design
- Sustainability

**The submission deadline is end of day Oct. 1, 2013.** The entry fee is only \$25.

If you can't nominate a project, why not become an event sponsor? Sponsorship opportunities are still available for the *2013 Top Projects Awards Luncheon*. For further information, contact Paul Sheane at [psheane@junewarren-nickles.com](mailto:psheane@junewarren-nickles.com)

**Expanding the Registered Apprenticeship Program** The new Education Act (2015) will provide for an extended opportunity for high school youth to experience career exploration in Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP). The high school age changing from 19 to 21 in the 2015 - 2016 school year. On a trial basis, CAREERS introduced a pilot project in the Edmonton area during summer 2013. The pilot project enables a graduating high school student to enroll in RAP for the summer, with a committed employer, and continue their schooling in RAP for an extended period the next year with the same employer. Meaning the classroom is the employer worksite. Some key benefits may include: attraction to employers with 18 year old policies for engagement on the worksite; provision of multiple entry points for students in high school, thus increased flexibility in academic and CTS credentials, more students entering RAP, and potential to assist schools and students with high school completion rates.

**Violence in the Workplace Conference** Where: Delta Edmonton South Hotel and Conference Centre (4404 Gateway Boulevard, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5C2)

**Who will attend?:** Attendees will include Safety Supervisors, Human Resources Professionals, Business/ Labour Leaders, Health Care Workers, Employees

**Time:** Registration- 8:00 am, presentations start at 8:45 am - 5:00 pm. Master of Ceremonies & Presenter **Glenn French, CEO & President.** *The Canadian Initiative on Workplace Violence* Presenters include: Dick Bevan, Alberta WCB- Establishing a Workplace Violence Program Linda Knowles, Alberta Safety Council-Conflict Resolution Cost: \$325 + GST per person including lunch. For more information or to register call toll free: 1-888-430-6405

The **Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) Amendment Regulation has passed and the changes to the OHS Regulation will take effect October 1, 2013.** The OHS Regulation had undergone review as it was set to expire on September 30, 2013. The OHS Regulation specifies requirements on administrative matters such as availability of critical documents on worksite, worker training, worker certification requirements etc. After the comprehensive review and consultation, the OHS Regulation is revised and renewed. The revision is not extensive. The OHS Program has released a bulletin explaining the changes to the OHS Regulation, <http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/OHS-reg-amended-LI033.pdf>

With the announced **retirement of our Executive Director, Hans Tiedemann as of December 31, 2013,** Mechanical Contractors Association of Alberta President Brad Diggins says "I am pleased to announce the MCAA executive search committee has been successful in filling the ED position and would like to announce the arrival of **Russ Evans as the new MCAA Executive Director.** Russ starts with MCAA on October 1st and will work closely with Hans over the next three months to facilitate a smooth transition and ensure there are no interruptions to the MCAA programs and services." The ECAA extends best wishes to Hans on his upcoming retirement and best of luck to Russ on this new endeavor.

#### Board of Directors Update

**Provincial Board Meeting held Wednesday, September 25th, 2013.** Prior to meeting, your board spent a day developing new mission and vision statements and focusing on goals. Thank you Rick Moyses from Alberta Culture for guiding us through the day. Fourteen board members attended the September 25th meeting.

**Agenda items included:** Discussion on Alberta Trade Contractors Coalition (ATCC); correspondence from Premier Redford on public member appointments; ESTS training; Alberta Apprenticeship & Industry Training Board vacancies; thank you letters for ECAA's support at various industry events; review of financial statements, overdue accounts and members who did not renew; updates to ECAA website; ACA Trade Definitions; new membership pamphlet; membership and PEC approvals; reports from Chapter Presidents and Committee Chairs.

**Passionate about Marketing? Interested in Communications?** We're still looking for a Communications Chair to join the Provincial Board of Directors - interested? Contact Sheri or Les.

**CONVENTION 2014. A Few Seats Left.** If you are planning to join us in South America please email your registration to [smclean@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:smclean@ecaa.ab.ca). On behalf of President Dzwonkiewicz, thank you. [CONVENTION REGISTRATION - SOUTH AMERICA](#)

**Have something to say?** ECAA is currently looking for guest writers for the Spark. Contact Les or Sheri.

#### Labour Update

**Updated List of Benefits available for unionized contractors from the Electrical Contractors Industry Fund.** *The Fund is supported by contributions from contractors signed to a collective agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.*

#### Canadian Welding Bureau (CWB) - Certification

The initial CWB certification test and subsequent recertification test cost is reimbursed by the ECAA Industry Fund. Certification is valid for two years. The

CWB AWS D1.3 for sheet metal (unistrut welding) test cost is also reimbursed by the ECAA Industry Fund.

For additional information see the applicable article in the Collective Agreement.

**Audiometric Testing**

Alberta OH&S legislation requires that employers working in the industrial field have all new employees audiometric tested within the first six months of their employment, twelve months after the initial test and every two years thereafter, unless there are indications that more frequent testing is required. The ECAA has contracted a third party to conduct required audiometric testing. ECAA Industry Fund covers the third party costs.

**The Industrial Construction Crew Supervisor (ICCS)**

ICCS is a Designated Occupation certification that can be obtained under the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act. Application and Testing cost is reimbursed by the ECAA Industry Fund. For more information on the ICCS go to [tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca](http://tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca)

**Better SuperVision (BSV)**

BSV is a management skills training program that provides skills training on Leadership and SuperVision, Labour Relations, Planning and Scheduling, Productivity and Quality and Leading Effective Work Teams. Tuition cost is reimbursed by the ECAA Industry Fund. For information go to [bettersupervision.org](http://bettersupervision.org)

**Leadership for Safety Excellence (LSE)**

LSE is a supervisory safety skills training program offered through the Alberta Construction Safety Association. Tuition cost is reimbursed by the ECAA Industry Fund.

**First Level Supervisor Training Program (FLST)**

FLST, an e learning supervisory training program through BuildForce Canada (formerly Construction Sector Council), E Learning Center. Tuition cost is reimbursed by the ECAA Industry Fund.

**Rapid Site Access Program (RSAP)** Case Managed Aftercare (as contained in applicable collective agreement)

Union members not currently a beneficiary of the Health Plan request/require a Substance Abuse Expert Assessment: member agrees to become an RSAP Participant and be case managed by third party manager Organizational Health Inc; OHI manages; ECAA Industry Fund covers OHI cost. (Note: For Bargaining Unit employees referred to OHI by an RSAP Contractor, RSAP contributions cover OHI costs).

**English Benchmarking**

When an individual's English skills to work safely are questionable and the employer requires the individual to take the standard Canadian Language Benchmarks test and the individual does not meet the benchmark the employer may be reimbursed for the individual's wages for the time taken to be tested.

**EFAP Benefits for Non Plan Members**

Employee and Family Assistance Program benefits will be provided to Electrical Industry Insurance Benefit Trust Fund of Alberta Non Plan Members and their dependents from the Electrical Contractors Industry Fund provided such Non Plan Members are must be working for a union employer and have union clearance issued by Local 424 IBEW to work for the union employer.

**Labour Relations Support**

The ECAA Industry Fund provides support for resolving grievances, coordinating collective agreement negotiations, Membership Development Fund Applications, collective agreement interpretation and application, etc..

**Local Chapter Activity**

**CALGARY:** SAIT presenting at the October 10th Chapter meeting.

**EDMONTON:** NAIT presenting at the October 21st meeting. Join Chapter members

and their spouses for **Dart Night**, 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Wednesday November 20th at the Kingsway Legion.

**FORT McMURRAY:** Next meeting Tuesday, October 8th at the Nova.

**NORTH WEST:** Luncheon meeting at the Pomeroy on Wednesday, October 16th.

### New Members

Welcome Price Langevin (Edmonton).

### Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) News

#### ***From the Desk of the PEC Education Chair***

I recently attended the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) conference hosted in Saskatoon by the Prairie Chapter of the IAEI. I sat in on three excellent technical presentations, all of which delved into topics of interest to electrical contractors.

Ark Tsisserev, a principal of Stantec Engineering, gave a presentation on Section 24 of the CEC, Patient Care Areas. He provided insight into how the three areas (basic, intermediate and critical) of a health care facility are classified based on what procedures take place within the areas. Ark also spoke about emergency power supplies for health care facilities as well as CSA Z32, a standard for electrical installations in health-care facilities that is referenced many times in the Appendix B notes of Section 24 of the CEC. One important function of the Z32 standard is to subdivide healthcare facilities into classes A, B and C based on what procedures are performed in the facility.

Randy Hunter of Bussmann (Eaton) gave a presentation on selective co-ordination of overcurrent devices. The essence of this presentation was that if a short circuit occurs in a branch circuit it is desirable to have the overcurrent device for that branch circuit trip before an upstream o/c device trips causing power outages in other circuits. Accomplishing this is often a challenge when branch circuits are fed from circuit breakers in a panelboard and the panelboard is protected by upstream fuses. To mitigate this problem some manufacturers have introduced panelboards which contain fuses instead of breakers to protect branch circuits. The final presentation was given by Pablo Diaz on the topic of grounding. Specifically, he spoke about grounding problems and the complexities of troubleshooting the problems. According to Pablo there is a high incidence of incorrect installations of grounding and bonding conductors. One common problem he runs across is where the neutral conductor is not isolated from ground downstream of the service box. This situation leads to parallel neutrals which allows current to flow on the bonding path which is often a metallic conduit. During his presentation Pablo discussed troubleshooting grounding problems in large installations such as a refinery and how it can take days of troubleshooting to find the problem.

**Larry Cantelo, PEC**

PEC Education Committee Chair

[lcantelo55@gmail.com](mailto:lcantelo55@gmail.com)

### CONGRATULATIONS! New Professional Electrical Contractors (PEC'S)

**Stephen Heptonstall, PEC# 255, Thomas Ahern, PEC# 256, and Nicolaas Van Es, PEC #257.**

### Continuing Education

**Registrations are being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2013 form on ECAA website under PEC section and in Calendar of Events:**

[2013/2014 PEC COURSE REGISTRATION FORM](#)

***Computer Estimating for Small Projects, October 25th & 26th (Edmonton).***

This course is designed to provide the new estimator or contractor with a basic

understanding of how to prepare an estimate. It covers:

- Planning for the estimate
- Preparing counts, take-offs
- Preparing the Bill of material for supplier pricing and Review of the Bill of material
- Accubid "Bidwinner"
- Use of assemblies, where to enter miscellaneous costs, supplier pricing, overhead costs, and the final pricing sheet
- Use of Excel spreadsheets to assist with take-offs

***Accounting Principles, November 21st & 22nd (Calgary).***

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.

***Business & Public Relations, November 28th & 29th (Edmonton)***

A series of five modules designed to give you essential and proven management concepts in the areas of managing: Credit & Collections, Business Promotion, Sales Management, Business Management and Human Resource Management. Each module will teach you hands-on management strategies to immediately begin improving the performance and profitability of your electrical contracting business.

**Also available through ECAA.**

**ELECTRICAL SAFETY TRAINING SYSTEM (ESTS)** is a computer based, distance delivered program that recognizes Provincial & Federal Occupational Health & Safety Regulations. The program promotes a "Plan, Do, Check, Act" philosophy applying CSA Z462, based on CSA Z1000 Occupational Health & Safety Management System Standard. ***Course is complimentary to all unionized electrical contractors and their employees that have a bargaining relationship with the IBEW Local 424.*** Contact Christine ([chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)) to sign up.

**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.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca) (Ethics course).

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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 it is 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 Friday, November 8, 2013.**

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Phone: 780-451-2412 Toll Free: 1-800-252-9375  
[www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)

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