



THE SPARK

ECAA E-Newsletter

February 6, 2015

Issue 48

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Upcoming PEC Courses

Legal Implications
February 12th & 13th, 2015
(Edmonton)

Safety Principles
February 27th & 28th, 2015
(Calgary)

*Computer Estimating
for Small Projects*
March 5th & 6th, 2015
(Edmonton)

[PEC Course List & Dates](#)

Tradeshows

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**2015 RAP Skilled
Trades Showcase
February 18th, 2015**

FEBRUARY/2015

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

Hello everyone, I can't believe another month has come and gone, but a very productive time. I was able to attend Chapter meetings in Ft McMurray, Lethbridge, and Lloydminster where I was welcomed with great hospitality and extremely valuable industry networking and communications. I would like to thank all the Chapter executives and members for their commitment to our Electrical Industry and the ECAA. I would also recommend to anyone associated with our Industry that has not attended a Chapter meeting recently, take the time to participate as it will be a valuable and rewarding experience. In addition to the Chapter meetings I was able to attend the Edmonton Chapter Presidents' Ball, another successful provincial board meeting, and a very informative Alberta Construction Association AGM. The work continues with Industry Partners and Associations.



Darcy Teichroeb,
PEC

Economic challenges in Alberta will keep all our businesses focussing on details and efficiencies in order to continue the Electrical Industry successes of the past. One of the benefits of the ECAA is belonging to a 900 Contractor and Associate Members Association where there is always support and industry networking to help deal with challenges.

Our ECAA office has been preparing for the upcoming changes in codes with scheduled training sessions and our PEC training day on May 22 in conjunction with 2015 AGM. The AGM is planned and the registration packages will be coming out shortly. Please join my wife and I at Copper Point Resort May 21 through May 23 for a very informative and relaxing AGM weekend.

Darcy Teichroeb, PEC, CME
ECAA President

Industry News

ECAA 2015 Convention & Training Day. Complete conference program and registration now available. [CONVENTION REGISTRATION PACKAGE](#). "Changes in Codes & Standards" is the theme for our upcoming Training Day on **May 22nd, 2015**, Copper Point Resort, Invermere, BC. Click on the following link for an updated copy and to register today. [TRAINING DAY REGISTRATION FORM](#). Hotel booking information can be found in the conference package. Take advantage of

James Fowler High School
Calgary, AB
February 25, 2015
Lord Beaverbrook High School
Calgary, AB

**Soaring: Inspire Youth Career
Conference**
February 26th, 2015
Telus Convention Center
Calgary, AB

**Bi-Provincial Try-A-Trade
Career Expo**
May 6th, 2015
Lloydminster, AB

Provincial Skills Competition
May 13 & 14, 2015
Edmonton Expo Center
Edmonton, AB

**AEL 2015 Electrical
Learning Expo**
March 25, 2015
Calgary, AB

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the excellent room rates and book your rooms today! Deadline for booking is April 15, 2015.

"What's New In the 2015 Canadian Electrical Code" Seminars have been scheduled. Click on the following [REGISTRATION FORM](#) to sign up. This course is approved for CME's and PEC's. Code Books also available for sale. Click on the following order form to get your copy today. [2015 CODE BOOK ORDER FORM](#)

Grande Prairie Regional College Master Electrician Certification Prep Course (TD004) Description: This course is designed to address a wide range of topics to advance you knowledge in electrical design or engineering in the residential, commercial or industrial sectors with topics to include: interpreting rules within the Canadian Electrical Code, calculation and application of demand factors, review of single and three phase systems, transformer connections, overcurrent protections of transformers, motors and feeders, and interrupting capacities of fuses and circuit breakers. This course will cover the 2012 Canadian Electrical Code; Alberta STANDATA; Industry Training Act; Electrician and Apprentice Regulations; O.H.S.A; WCB; and Permit Regulations. This course will consist of 80 hours of Theory training. **Dates:** Feb 19 (Th), 20 (F), 21 (S), 22 (Sn), 28 (S), Mar 1 (Sn), 7 (S) & 8 (Sn), 2015. To register click on the following link <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/ce/courses/details.html?ID=TD004&cat=516>

Scrap metal theft is an issue that has impacted businesses, industry and law enforcement in Alberta. The most highly valued and frequently stolen metals include **copper, aluminum, brass** and **steel**. Many of these metals are used in infrastructure development including light rail transit, electric substations and telecommunications towers. Scrap metal theft from these critical infrastructures can disrupt transportation hubs, as well as critical services such as access to 911 emergency services, hospitals and emergency operations centres. In response to these concerns, the Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Identification Act was introduced. **The Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General is seeking your input on the development of the regulations for the Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Identification Act.** Please visit: <https://extranet.gov.ab.ca/opinio6//s?s=24335> to complete the survey. The survey will be available until February 19, 2015. Please feel free to share the survey link with your colleagues in scrap metal or stakeholders who you think may like to provide feedback on the development of the regulations for the Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Identification Act. If you have any questions or need any further information please contact Caitlin Tighe at caitlin.tighe@gov.ab.ca or via phone at (780) 427-7232.

Canada's Safest Employers Awards 2015. The nominations are now open for Canada's Safest Employers of 2015. Click on the nominations tab above for the applications. Deadline June 1st. **NEW FOR 2015 *Young Worker Safety Award.** To be handed out to a deserving company that has exceptional programs in place for keeping workers under age 25 safe on the job. (More information coming soon). ***Canada's Best Health + Safety Culture Award:** The top award of them all! This award recognizes an employer that exceeds traditional health and safety practices by its impact on a broader community dimension beyond their workplaces.

Building Trades of Alberta Charitable Foundation 2015 Curling Bonspiel Fundraiser: Saturday, February 21, 2015 at the Edmonton Garrison Memorial Golf & Curling Club (Lancaster Park Golf & Curling Club (Hwy 28A Nmao, Edmonton) Curling 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM ~ Dinner & Social 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM **RSVP Deadline:** February 13, 2015 For further information contact Catherine Lunn, (780) 421-9400, ext 116 clunn@buildingtradesalberta.ca

Alberta Electric League 2015 Learning Expo will take place on March 25, 2015, in Calgary, Alberta at the Grey Eagle Casino. For more information or to register visit <http://albertaelectricalleague.com/learning-expo/>

News from Alberta Construction Association

[ACA Talks With Advanced Education Minister.](#) ACA Vice-Chair Paul Verhesen and Executive Director Ken Gibson met with Advanced Education Minister Don Scott on Monday. Once again the ACA was able to reach out to the government minister in a cordial atmosphere. As part of their discussion the pair brought up the past partnerships with the Alberta government and advocated for continued success. The ACA also reiterated its advice to the Minister as outlined in the letter sent to him last fall.

Please see [attached letter](#).

[Express Entry Changes the Focus to Quality Immigration Candidates.](#) On Jan. 1, the federal government launched Express Entry, a new immigration application management system intended to prioritize applicants and accelerate the process. Skilled workers, who want to apply to Canada's key economic immigration programs, now must create an online profile to express their interest in coming to Canada permanently. Candidates who meet the minimum criteria will be accepted into the pool and will be given a score based on language proficiency, education and work experience. According to the government, these are leading indicators of one's likelihood of integrating fully and quickly into Canada's economy and society. The highest ranking skilled workers will be invited to apply for permanent residence and can expect to see their application processed in six months or less. The first invitations to apply will be issued during the last week of January. The government of Alberta is able to use the system to select a portion of candidates for their Provincial Nominee Programs.

For more on this article [click here](#)

[New Year Means Elections on the Horizon](#) 2015 could turn into the year of the election. As the price of oil continues to fall and budgets start to tighten Premier Prentice is rumoured to be considering a spring election campaign which could come as early as March. If Alberta does have a spring election this will mean that there will be an abbreviated sitting of the legislature. Upper most on the minds of some of our members will be meeting the demands for school construction which were announced in the last year and how the province will afford them under tighter budget constraints. On the Federal scene the set election date is scheduled for October 19, 2015. In both cases the ACA will work with our partners, including local construction associations, to ensure the politicians know the concerns of our members going forward. Specific to our interest is how the changes to the immigration and education programs will fill the skills gap in our workforce. The ACA and others are working toward a common front on these items.

[Investment in Workplace Essential Skills Training has an Impact on Bottom Line](#) Workplace Essential Skills enable people to perform job tasks competently and continue to develop other skills along a growth spectrum. They are the skills that allow employees to adapt quickly to the unprecedented rate of technological change showing up in every workplace. Having the right skills for the right job at the right time helps organizations stay current and safe as equipment, procedures and products change. See <http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/jobs/les//index.shtml> for more information about Workplace Essential Skills.

A recent article highlighting the benefits of workplace essential skills training (25% average return on investment with as high as a 300% ROI; revenue gains, increased company loyalty; greater productivity) (<http://www.canadianbusiness.com/insights/literacy/>) clearly speaks to many of the issues today's employers are facing:

- Employees don't have the right skills to perform competently
- Too many health and safety incidents
- Increasing rates of change and new technologies
- Problems with retention
- Lack of productivity in terms of waste, mistakes, re-do's, sick time,

refusal of employees to upgrade training or take promotions

Please visit Alberta Workforce Essential Skills at www.awes.ca or email cindy@awes.ca for more information.

Alberta Workforce Essential Skills training is eligible for Canada Job Grant Funding.

[ACA Annual General Meeting Report](#) The Alberta Construction Association Annual General Meeting was held on Friday January 30, in Leduc. The meeting brought together the board, our associate members, and local construction associations from across Alberta and government representation. Alan Humphries from Alberta Infrastructure made a presentation on behalf of the minister who was unable to make it due to budget discussions. COOLNet, Skills Alberta, and our affiliate organizations gave reports outlining their work over the last year with ACA. Outgoing Chair Scott Matheson was honoured for his contributions to the ACA. Dave Kinley (Concept Electric, Calgary) was elected Chair for 2015. Lee Phillips from Scott Builders was honoured for his contribution as an ACA volunteer on the Building Technical Council with the 2014 Chair's Award.

ACA's 2015 Board is:

Dave Kinley (Concept Electric) - Chairman
Paul Verhesen (Clark Builders) - Senior Vice Chairman
Paul Heyens (Alberta Glass) - Vice Chairman
Scott Matheson (PCL) - Past Chair
Fabrizio Carinelli (CANA) - Calgary Construction Association
Stephanie Roll (Executive Millwork) - Calgary Construction Association
Scott Emerson (Inland Concrete) - Edmonton Construction Association
Conal Hancherow (Thermo Design Insulation) - Edmonton Construction Association
Charles Iggulden (Trade Skills Global) - Fort McMurray Construction Association
Tim Moline (Turcon Group) - Grande Prairie Construction Association
Nathan Neudorf (Ward Bros.) - Lethbridge Construction Association
Russ Lorenz (Citadel Mechanical) - Lloydminster Construction Association
Buck Heath (Pad-Car Mechanical) - Medicine Hat Construction Association
Josh Edwards (Scott Builders) - Red Deer Construction Association
Dennis Cascon (SimplexGrinnell) - Red Deer Construction Association

For more information and news from Alberta Construction Association visit <http://albertaconstruction.net/>

Apprenticeship & Industry Training Updates

New occupation - Overhead Door Technician Overhead door technician has been designated as an occupation under the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act (Act), effective January 1, 2015. Consultation with industry demonstrated strong support for the designation of overhead door technician. As members of a designated occupation under the Act, overhead door technicians may qualify for an Alberta Occupational Certificate by demonstrating the competencies described in the Overhead Door Technician Occupation Regulation. While certification is not required to work in the occupation, its availability recognizes industry-approved competencies and assessments, improving the viability of overhead door technician as a career in Alberta. An occupational designation ensures that workers have the equivalent knowledge, skills and competencies. It improves worker mobility and provides consistent standards for employers. Training and certification in the occupation increases awareness of the importance of safe working procedures and practices. For more information on overhead door technician as a designated occupation, view the [Overhead Door Technician](#) information on [Tradesecrets](#). If you have any questions, please contact Anthony (Tony) Lovell, Manager, Industry Programs and Standards, at 780-427-5755, or by email at anthony.lovell@gov.ab.ca.

Auto Glass Technician no longer a branch of the Glazier trade Effective January 1, 2015, the auto glass technician branch ceased to exist as a branch of the glazier trade. This means the branch is no longer regulated in Alberta. The repeal follows a period of low industry participation in the auto glass technician apprenticeship program and consultations with industry. Currently, there are only four registered apprentices in the branch. The Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board and the Glazier Provincial Apprenticeship Committee believed the branch was no longer viable in Alberta. Existing auto glass technician apprentices will not be negatively impacted by this change. Apprentices will be allowed up to two years to complete their auto glass technician apprenticeship program if they wish or be granted credit to enter into the glazier trade apprenticeship program. Additional information regarding the transition arrangements for existing apprentices and their employers is available in the [Information Bulletin](#) on tradesecrets.alberta.ca. For those individuals wishing to pursue an auto glass technician apprenticeship, there is a program available in the Province of BC. Further information is available directly from the BC Industry Training Authority: <http://www.itabc.ca/program/automotive-glass-technician>. For more information, please contact Ken Nelson, Manager, Industry Programs and Standards, at 780-422-4757, or by email at ken.nelson@gov.ab.ca.

Launch of Trades Competency Verification Pilot in Steamfitter-Pipefitter trade Industry has been requesting a competency assessment tool to evaluate the practical skills of internationally-trained workers and their ability to meet Alberta industry standards. Currently there are two practices used to assess and provide evidence of competency: an employer declaration letter (EDL) or a practical assessment. **On February 4, AIT launched a pilot project for the Trades Competency Verification (TCV) in the steamfitter-pipefitter trade.** The TCV was developed to expand the options used in evaluating the practical skills of a person claiming to have the same skill set as a certified, entry-level journey person in a selected trade. The TCV is a pilot project, so it will be implemented and evaluated before continuing or expanding it to other trades. Qualification candidates must have an approved application for the Qualification Certificate - Work Experience program for the steamfitter-pipefitter trade. Once they have approval from International and Provincial Assessment Services, they will be sent a TCV book with their approval/arrival letter. The TCV book contains seven core competencies for the steamfitter-pipefitter trade. When the candidate demonstrates each competency, it must be verified by an approved assessor, who must possess an Alberta-recognized steamfitter-pipefitter journey person credential. The candidate's current employer must also endorse the quality of the assessment. Once the TCV has been verified by AIT, the candidate will be scheduled to write the qualification theory exam. For more information, please view the attached TCV fact sheet or contact Julia Penner at 1-403-813-0766 or via email at julia.penner@gov.ab.ca.

NEW! Summary of recognized foreign credentials available AIT has put together a [summary of recognized credentials](#) for employers, available on tradesecrets.alberta.ca. The summary lists recognized trade credentials in Alberta, categorized first by the issuing jurisdiction, the Alberta trade, followed by the equivalent credential. Individuals holding a recognized trade credential are eligible to work in the full scope of the trade in Alberta based on their credential without having to sit for examinations.

January 2015 Apprenticeship News. For your interest, the latest *Apprenticeship News* from the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum (CAF). Of particular interest:

- Labour Mobility of Apprentices survey - CAF is looking for employers and apprentices who have personal experience with transitions between different jurisdictions to participate.
- Employment and Social Development Canada has launched the Flexibility and Innovation in Apprenticeship Technical Training (FIATT) Call for Proposals

- Canada Apprentice Loan - now taking applications

AIT continues to work closely with the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum to ensure Alberta's needs are represented.

Winter 2015 Red Seal e-Newsletter. The latest Red Seal e-Newsletter from the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA). In it, you'll find information on:

- Canada Apprentice Loan
- CCDA's national consultations on recommendations for 10 targeted Red Seal trades
- CCDA's Foreign Qualifications Recognition Project

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these projects or initiatives, please get in touch with your regular AIT contact who will connect you with the appropriate area.

Board of Directors Update

A Provincial Board meeting was held Friday, January 23rd, 2015. In attendance were President Darcy Teichroeb, PEC; Mr. Terry Barnett; Mr. Darrell Castor; Mr. Bob Clarke; Mr. Rob Coleman, PEC; Mr. Brent Connell, PEC; Mr. Joe Davis; Mr. Les Dzwonkiewicz, PEC; Mrs. Jeanette DeBruin; Mr. Dave Hagen; Mr. Doug Miller; Mr. Terry Milot; Mr. Tim Tarita; Mr. Hans Tiedemann; Mr. Steve Warholik; and Mrs. Sheri McLean.

Agenda items included reappointing Mr. Dave Hagen as ECAA representative to ACSA Board of Directors; ECAA three year commitment to Career the Next Generation as a Top 10 in Electrical Trade sponsor; Prompt Payment Legislation (another random survey being sent - if you receive it *please* respond). The December financials and January Wood Gundy investment report were reviewed. A presentation was made to the Board by Mr. Terry Becker on helping member companies manage arc flash and shock hazards for their workers. An update was provided on both the PEC and ECAA marketing initiatives. Chapter and Committee reports were presented. Seven membership applications were approved. It was reported March 9th is the target date for adoption of the new Fire Code. Proposals were presented to Ways Means and a decision made on Convention 2016. Information will be launched at Convention 2015.

The Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario (ECAO) is hosting the National Canadian Electrical Contractors Association (CECA) in St. Andrew's by the Sea, September 16th - 20th at the Algonquin Resort. Early registration deadline March 13, 2015 (registration information on ECAA website www.ecaa.ab.ca or contact ECAA for further information).

Have something to say?

ECAA is currently looking for guest writers for the Spark. Contact Darcy or Sheri.

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY: Join us for our **Industry Information & Casino Night on Thursday, February 12th**, at the Best Western Port O'Call. Members are encouraged to bring a non-member. Contact carnett@ecaa.ab.ca for more information and to rsvp. **2015 RAP Skilled Trades Showcase** will be hosting a career fair at James Fowler High School on February 18th, 2015 and Lord Beaverbrook High School on February 25, 2015 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. If you are interested in volunteering contact Doug Miller (d.miller@customelectric.com)

EDMONTON: **Industry Night with Wine & Food Pairing**, table top dispays during cocktail hour. All members encouraged to bring a non member. For more information contact carnett@ecaa.ab.ca

Thank you to all that attended our **Edmonton Chapter President's Ball**. It was a great success and excellent turn out once again with 198 guests and special representation from MLA Naresh Bhardwaj.

FORT MCMURRAY: Newly elected officers to the Fort McMurray Chapter include Chapter President Tim Brundage; Vice President Paul Schmaltz; Secretary Derek Drews; Treasurer Derk VanDerkolk; and Past President Adam McNamara congratulations on your appointments. Thank you Adam for your time served as Chapter President.

LETHBRIDGE: Meeting held January 14th at the Lethbridge Lodge with 26 members and guests in attendance including Provincial President Darcy Teichroeb, PEC. Guest speakers Marc Garner (Lethbridge College); Jennifer Garnett (Gescan) and Chad Dorren, Bert Meyering with BJD Electric.

NORTH EAST: Meeting held on January 27th with 15 members and guests in attendance, including President Darcy Teichroeb, PEC. Agenda items included chapter budget; NE chapter code seminar; Foreign Workers Equivalency Program; Permit Issues; Training Day & ECAA Convention; May 6th Try-A-Trade, round table discussion, update from Lakeland College on their programs and a Provincial Board update.

Continuing Education

Registrations are being accepted for all courses scheduled in 2014 form on ECAAwebsite under PEC section and in Calendar of Events: Contact Christine Hryniw (chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca) to register or for more information on the program.

[2015 PEC COURSE REGISTRATION FORM](#)

Legal Implications, February 12th & 13th, 2015 (Edmonton) 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.

Safety Principles, February 27th & 28th, 2015 (Calgary)

A well developed safety program can reduce costs resulting from injury and property damage, and is the hallmark of a quality electrical contracting firm.. The first day of the course shows you each step to develop and implement an effective safety program for your small to medium sized electrical contracting firm. The next day is designed to help managers ensure construction supervisors fine-tune their safety skills by:

- clearly understanding what their safety roles and responsibilities are
- presenting and delivering effective training to workers and maintaining high worksite safety standards
- conducting effective site inspections - and developing appropriate recommendations
- investigating - the steps to follow and processes involved

Computer Estimating for Small Projects, March 5th & 6th, 2015 (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

ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE THROUGH ECAA.

FIRST LEVEL SUPERVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM

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**

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) 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 (Ethics course).

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.

The next issue of The Spark will be emailed Friday, March 6, 2015.



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