



ECAA

Electrical Contractors
Association of Alberta

THE SPARK

ECAA NEWSLETTER

September 4th, 2020

Issue 115

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Upcoming Training

2018 Code Update Seminar

September 11th

October 16th

(In person & Virtual)

[Code Update Registration
Form](#)

Section 10 Grounding & Bonding Seminar

September 26th

(Virtual)

[Register Here](#)

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

Well as September rolls in it looks as though the government and school boards are going to try and make a valiant effort to re-open the schools and allow kids back into the classrooms all be it under structured guidelines and precautions. I am certain that the majority of Albertans are hopeful for a safe and stable result in efforts to allow working parents back into their respective work places. Time will soon tell how this all plays out, but I would encourage everyone to err on the side of caution and be diligent in following all necessary guidelines in an effort to avoid a spike or significant increase in Covid cases. Again, this is another significant step towards regaining a sense of normal and leverage a next steps approach to strengthening the overall economy in the province, not just for businesses, but for all families as well.



It is with sadness that we share the passing of Elver Olsen. Elver was considered to be one of the founding fathers of the ECAA if you will and we are very grateful for all of his time, effort and dedication over the years. Elver will truly be missed, though never forgotten. We were also saddened to hear about the passing of Lorne Thomas in recent weeks. Lorne was a long time Manager/Owner with Eecol Electric and a pillar in the electrical community. He will also be truly missed yet not forgotten.

I would like to again wish Steve Warholik all the best in his retirement as ECAA's Membership Chair and welcome Don Kuziw into the position as Member Relations. Don brings his expertise to the Association as a Safety Codes Officer in the electrical field.

It is my pleasure to announce that the Chapter meetings will be taking place throughout the districts beginning with the upcoming fall sessions here in September. Please be sure to check our website for dates and times as well as some of the guidelines for attending, as some may be joined in

Training Day Part 2

October 2nd
(Virtual)

[Presenters & Topics](#)

[Register Here](#)

Fire Alarm Refresher Course

October 26th - 30th

In person (Edmonton)

[Register Here](#)

[2020-2021 PEC Course Schedule](#)

[ECAA 2020 Board of Directors](#)

Click on the above link to meet our Provincial Board of Directors

person and others will only be able to attend through Zoom. We are certainly looking forward to renewing our networking relationships with our members and associates in the weeks to come.

Special dates in September would obviously include Labour Day which falls on Monday, September 7th. Let's all be sure to do our best to acknowledge and respect the importance of this Stat Holiday and do our best to avoid all 'non-critical' work activities, and hopefully enjoy a wonderful day off.

Thank you as always to Sheri McLean and her team as well as the many volunteers and Committee Chairs who sit on the Board. We are grateful for your time and dedication as we work collectively towards creating positive change to our Province, our Industry as well as the communities we live in.

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

Please enjoy the remainder of 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

Join Our List



ECAA is Social

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Getting to Know Don Kuziw

Don Kuziw joins us as our Member Relations representative.

Company: ATCO Electric Ltd. (Safety Codes Officer)

Family Members: Wife Chrystal, and my seven year old daughter Sarah

When and how did you start in the industry: In 1991 with K-Jay Electric Ltd. (residential)

Favorite hobbies: Reading, Searching through local archives

Favorite TV show: Monday Night Raw

Favourite Sports Team: Edmonton Oilers

Most memorable vacation: Niagara Falls 1997 (engagement)

Affiliations with other associations: Safety Codes Council, EIAA

Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices: Never Stop Learning, Always Room for Improvement!

Favorite ECAA memory: My feeling in attaining the prestigious PEC Certification

Best part of ECAA is: Atmosphere of never feeling like a stranger; always there to help and support

What's available through your Associate's

[Wirtanen Instrument Promo](#)

Finning - Wirtanen would like to extend this limited time offer to help support the electrical contractors during these difficult times to save on getting their Instruments Calibrated and up to standard in preparation for better times ahead. Please feel free to contact 780-434-8421 or visit our site [Finning.com/Buy1Get1](https://finning.com/Buy1Get1) using the promo code in the attachment.

"Finning /Wirtanen would like to extend a friendly invitation to the electrical contractors to book a time slot and come see a demo of the Greenlee Remote cable cutter at our Edmonton Facility on Sept 15 or 16th. Please see corresponding details as we are taking all necessary precautions to keep everyone safe."

[Wirtanen Cable Cutter Demo Event](#)

ECAA Enhanced Group Benefits Plan - Guarantee your rates to June 2022! Due to the pandemic, Victor Group Benefits has agreed to extend the rate guarantee. This means that you can bid on your jobs with a certainty of what your benefits will cost. The ECAA plan has guaranteed enrollment, with no medical underwriting and no request for past claims experience. A quote is as simple as letting us know how many families and how many singles in your company. Jamie Henson or Cathy Whyte of Sun Life will be giving you a call to get you a quote, or you can call Cathy directly at 780-903-3715.

Industry News & Updates

Thank you to those that have registered for the upcoming Bob Carson Classic Golf Tournament. We look forward to seeing you all at the course next week!

2020-2021 PEC Course Schedule is available. These courses are open to anyone interested. [2020 2021 PEC Course List](#)

Last Chance to take the 2018 Code Update. [Code Update Registration Form](#)

An in-depth look at Grounding & Bonding Seminar is scheduled for September 26th (8:30 am - 4:00 pm). This virtual seminar will be presented by Marex Canada. Following the seminar product presentation by Eaton Industries will take place. For more information contact the ECAA office directly. [Registration Link](#)

Training Day Part 2 will take place on Friday, October 2nd. Join us as we deliver the General Interest stream virtually. For a complete list of Presenters [click here](#). [Registration Link](#)

Fire STANDATA Update. [19-FCI-018](#) Certification of Contractors for Storage Tank Systems. To view all Fire STANDATA [click here](#).

A Virtual Media Training Workshop: September 30th hosted by Grant Ainsley. Cost is \$349, but until September 18th, you save \$50 and just pay \$299 for 4-4.5 hours of training and includes all materials. Limited space available. For more information click on the following link: <https://www.grantainsley.com/virtual-media-training-workshop>

Canadian Occupational Safety Magazine have published [Canada's Safest Employers 2020 finalists](#). Congratulations to all the finalists! To view the complete list click on the following link: <https://safestemployers.com/winners/2020-winners>

Buildex Alberta will be going 100% virtual in 2020 from November 30th - December 4th. Click on the announcement for more information. [Buildex 2020](#)

Elver Olsen was Provincial President of ECAA and an important part of the history of the Association, as Calgary Chapter President, many Provincial and Chapter positions, as well as a Trustee for 45 years. He will be dearly missed by all that had the pleasure of knowing him. **Our deepest condolences to Grethe and his family.** <https://calgaryherald.remembering.ca/obituary/elver-olsen-1079720128>

Our condolences to the family of Lorne Thomas; Lorne was a manager and owner of EECOL Electric for the past 45 years up until his passing and a strong supporter of ECAA. <https://edmontonjournal.remembering.ca/obituary/lorne-thomas-1079492026>

Join the STARS Safety Network. STARS monitors thousands of individuals who work alone, improving emergency preparedness and providing peace of mind. STARS responds to missed check-ins, panic alarms and gas alerts. Work-alone monitoring allows STARS to facilitate and coordinate the best possible medical response in the least amount of time, under Transportation Physician guidance. For more information contact 1-888-888-4567 vigilant@stars.ca [Work Alone Monitoring System](#)

REMINDER: Call for Nominations: 2020 Canada's Volunteer Awards

The call for nominations for Canada's Volunteer Awards is currently open, and we encourage you to nominate a not-for-profit organization, an individual, a group of volunteers, a social enterprise or a business that is making a difference in your community. **Nominations will be accepted until September 30, 2020.** Twenty-one awards in five categories

There is one national award:

- **Thérèse Casgrain Lifelong Achievement Award** : for individuals who demonstrate exceptional achievements through volunteering for at least 20 years

And four regional awards (awarded in 5 regions):

- **Emerging Leader:** Youth aged 18 to 30 who have demonstrated community leadership
- **Community Leader:** Individuals or a group of volunteers who have taken a lead role in developing solutions to social challenges in their communities.
- **Business Leader:** Businesses that demonstrate social responsibility in their practices, as well as for profit and not-for-profit social enterprises dedicated to creating social, cultural or environmental benefits for their communities
- **Social Innovator:** Recognizes the contributions of not-for-profit organizations, including not-for-profit social enterprises that find and use innovative approaches that address social challenges in their communities.

The recognition package for award recipients includes a \$5,000 or \$10,000 grant to be awarded to the not-for-profit organization of the recipient's choosing. We all play a role in recognizing volunteers. That person or organization in your community that you admire for their inspiring work? [Nominate them](#) for an award today!

The Accommodation Law Webinar Series. New legal breakthroughs in the duty to accommodate and their impact on the unionized workplace. Register for this nine-part webinar series and catch up on the year's top legal developments in the duty to accommodate. [Register Here.](#)

Workplace Mental Health: Virtual Webinar. Practical, actionable strategies addressing mental health in the workplace The Workplace Mental Health Webinar is designed to provide employers with practical, real-life solutions. The research is conclusive - we know what the problems are, we know the main issues behind presenteeism, absenteeism and disability claims. This exclusive virtual event with a mix of live and on-demand session will equip leaders with information that will make a difference for their employees, their organizations and the bottom line. [Click Here to Register](#)

Congratulations to Ace Trades as they have started a new apprenticeship training college under the name of Ace Community College. They started their 1st Apprenticeship training program for Construction Electrician-level 1 and level 2 in April 2020 and both programs were a great success. To learn more about this program, government funding and next available dates, please contact ACE directly at 604-603-2231(ACE1) or email: info@acecollegecanada.com

Provincial Board of Directors Update

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

New Members

Welcome **Contractor Members:** Refine Electric Ltd. (Edmonton); Fish Energy Ltd. (Fort McMurray)

Journey person Associate Members: Shaun Soenen (Lethbridge); Sean Fyles-Duggan (Red Deer).

Professional Electrical Contractor News

Congratulations on obtaining your PEC designation!

Tyler Dicker, PEC (Wainwright)

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY: Chapter President Chris Jardine and the Calgary Chapter Executive invite members to join them for a start of the season social at **GRETA** on **Thursday, September 10th** from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Thank you to our sponsor Atlee Ronald, Federate Insurance.

Space is limited; contact Camille for more information
[***\(caustin@ecaa.ab.ca\)***](mailto:caustin@ecaa.ab.ca)

CENTRAL: Next Chapter Meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, September 30th Holiday Inn South (Gasoline Alley) 5:30 pm.** In person meeting with option to participate via zoom.

Presenters via zoom:

Scott Lee, Powerco
Sheryl Janke & Cathy Whyte, Sunlife/Canwest

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

Presenter via zoom: Cooper Zappacosta, Leviton

Topic of Presentation: Lumina RF - Scalable Lighting Control for Commercial Applications

FORT McMURRAY: Next Chapter meeting scheduled for **Thursday, September 24th Best Western Sawridge Suites 5:30 pm.** In person meeting with option to participate via zoom.

Presenter via zoom: Cooper Zappacosta, Leviton

Topic of Presentation: Lumina RF - Scalable Lighting Control for Commercial Applications

Presenter via zoom: Kevin Shepard, WESCO

Topic of Discussion: LED in Action - Rugged Products for Harsh Environments

NORTH WEST: Next Chapter meeting scheduled for **Thursday, September 17th Pomeroy Hotel in Grande Prairie 5:30 pm. In person meeting - space is limited; contact Camille to RSVP caustin@ecaa.ab.ca.** In person meeting with option to participate via zoom.

Presenter via zoom: Kevin Shepard, WESCO

Topic of Discussion: LED in Action - Rugged Products for Harsh Environments

Presenters via zoom:

Scott Lee, Powerco

Sheryl Janke & Cathy Whyte, Sunlife/Canwest

Central, Fort McMurray and North West Chapter meetings are in person with the option to participate via zoom. For more information and to rsvp contact Camille caustin@ecaa.ab.ca

PEC Courses

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

Option to pay closer to the day of each course through the office, fill out the attached [course form](#) and send to chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca. This will allow you to pre-register for fall courses and pay per course as they come up. For more information contact Christine.

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

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

- [CNCR - Communication, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution](#)
- [Confined Spaces Safety Awareness](#)
- [Construction Law](#)
- [Construction Project Management](#)
- [Introduction to Building Information Modeling](#)
- [Introduction to Construction Estimating](#)
- [Pipeline Construction Safety Training \(PCST\)](#)
- [Working in a Respectful and Inclusive Workplace](#)

For pricing and access to these courses contact chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca

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

FIRST LEVEL SUPERVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM **5 Gold Seal Credits This course offers the critical basic skills and concepts needed to supervise a crew in the residential, institutional, commercial, industrial and civil construction sectors. For more information click on the following link [First Level Supervisor Training Program](#) .Course is complimentary to all unionized electrical contractors and their employees that have a bargaining relationship with the IBEW Local 424. Non Union ECAA Member/Non Member cost is \$400. To enroll contact chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca

ON-LINE ETHICS COURSE. This course is designed for the Certified Master Electrician (CME) that desires to maintain that designation and for any Registered Master Electrician (RME) or Master electrician that desires to become a CME Information at www.ecaatraining.com (Ethics course).

COVID - 19 Resource Information

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

Contact Us

If you are an ECAA Contractor or Associate member and would like us to help promote an industry or company event please contact us directly at 1-800-252-9375.

We value your feedback and its important to us. Please submit any comments to smclean@ecaa.ab.ca

The next issue of The Spark will be emailed on October 2nd, 2020.



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