



ECAA

Electrical Contractors
Association of Alberta

THE SPARK

ECAA NEWSLETTER

June 4th, 2021 | Issue 124

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Start up again in the fall.

WEBINARS

June 9th, 2021 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Smart Phone Savvy: Save 30 minutes a day by improving your portable productivity.

[Register Here](#)

Communities of Practice

Wednesday, June 23rd, 2021

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Virtual Discussion

[Register Here](#)

UPCOMING TRAINING

[2021 Code Update Training Schedule](#)

1 Day Arc Flash & Shock Training

Virtual Instructor led

Wednesday, June 16th, 2021

[Register Here](#)

Estimating & Finalizing the Tender

June 17th, 18th & 19th, 2021

[Registration Information](#)

Fire Alarm Training Course

June 21 - 25, 2021 (Edmonton)

President's Message

It is June 2nd as I sit here and write this article, we are now in Step one of the third wave of the COVID 19 Pandemic. Who would have thought even 12 months ago that rather than the normal conversation "how are you doing", "how's the family" and "are you getting any jobs", would be replaced with "have you had your shot yet" and "what vaccine did you get".



It is a difficult time but as one of my first acts as the new President I will be negotiating an end to this nonsense with Mr. C Ovid and Mrs. P Andemic.

Honestly, I think there is light at the end of the tunnel and I hope we can begin to return to some of the things we all enjoy, primarily "socialization". I look forward to the challenges that this year will bring. Among some of the bigger events this year we will be saying farewell to our ED Sheri Mclean after 30 years with the ECAA. We will also be saying hello to our new ED Robin Bobocel in mid-June. It will be with mixed emotions that I will get to work with these two individuals during their transition. We will continue to assist with other initiatives such as Prompt Payment, Bill 67 changes to Apprenticeship program, the issues regarding High & Low Voltage injuries from electricity and others that I am sure will arise. We will continue to be "*The Voice of the Electrical Industry*" and continue to foster relationships with other groups for the common good of people who make their living from the electrical industry and others involved in the trade. To do this, I will be joined by the rest of the Executive team that

In person following AHS
[Register Here](#)

Visit our website

[ECAA 2020-2021
Board of Directors](#)

will be up for the challenge. We on the Board look forward to working with our newest member Jason Kuziw, Provincial Secretary.

I truly hope that we will have a chance to meet personally over the next 12 months.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer.

Respectfully,

Scott Hutton
ECAA Provincial President

ECAA Convention Wrap Up

Congratulations 2021 ECAA Award Recipients. In case you missed it here is our video presentation sponsored by ABB: [Awards Luncheon Presentation](#)

Award of Merit Recipient: Don MacDonald

Lifetime Members: Bob Bennett, Dean Gjertsen & Arthur Thormann

5 Year: 24/7 Electric; Illuminate Electric; Showtech Power & Lighting; Youngman Electric; Zayak's Electric. Associate Members: Anixter (Edmonton); Allstate Insurance (Calgary); E.B. Horsman; SMP Engineering.

10 Year: BGS Electrical Service; RDK Electric

15 Year: Blockage GC; Power Works Electrical; Spruce Park Electric

20 Year: Canpo Electric; Chermik Group; Heartland Electrical Services; High Line Electrical Constructors (Calgary). Associate Members: Bartle & Gibson (Fort McMurray); Vipond; Wesco Distribution (Fort McMurray)

30 Year: Jord Electric; APM/GETSCO Technical Services Associates; ACE Manufacturing

35 Year: Magnum Electric. Associate: Federated Insurance (Calgary)

40 Year: Gescan (Calgary)

50 Year: Benco Electric; Kristian Electric; Chemco Electrical Contractors

Thank you to Dr. Marc Jeschke for participating as our keynote speaker; Gray Day Events for hosting our virtual gala entertainment and Federated Insurance for sponsoring this portion.

Special thank you to everyone that participated in this year's event.

Congratulations to our newly elected Provincial Executive:

President: Scott Hutton

Vice President: Neil Moffatt

Treasurer: Tim Fehr

Secretary: Jason Kuziw

Labour Relations: Brian Halina **Vice-Chair:** Brent Connell, PEC

Open Shop: Andrew McGuire

PEC: Darcy Teichroeb, PEC **Vice Chair:** Shawn Bishop, PEC

ECAA thanks our outgoing Chapter Presidents & Board Members: Chris Jardine (Calgary); Jason Kuziw (Edmonton); Daniel Kuderewko (Fort McMurray). Dave Hagen (ACA & WCB); Darrell Warholik (Provincial Associates Liaison North); Eric Fadden, PEC (PEC Vice Chair); Jeff Light, PEC (Education)

ECAA welcomes Cam McIntosh, PEC (Calgary); Shawn Bishop, PEC (Edmonton & PEC Vice Chair); Paul Schmaltz, PEC (Fort McMurray); Grant Wagar (ACA & WCB); Landon Jones (Provincial Associate Liaison North).

We are looking for nominations for an ECAA member or, employee of a member company, that you feel would benefit from a COVID relief donation. We are looking for members and/or employees who had difficulty coping with the stress of Covid (financial, unemployment, unexpected difficulties). Nominations will remain anonymous and the privacy of the recipient will be respected.

Email your nominations to Sheri smclean@ecaa.ab.ca

Proceeds from the Keynote & Virtual Gala along with 50/50 sales from golf have gone to this donation. Thank you to those that purchased tickets.

A special thank you to our Convention Sponsors for their support of this event:

ABB (Awards Luncheon & Golf)
Federated Insurance (Keynote Speaker)
Gescan (Golf)

Congratulations to our social media contest winner Blake Menning of All Choice Rentals who won a round of golf for two at the Kananaskis Country Golf Course and one night stay courtesy of the Pomeroy Mountain Lodge.

Farewell from our Executive Director

Farewell Message from Sheri. As I get ready to turn my over position, an Association which is part of my heart and soul, along with the well-being of my staff to a new Executive Director, I would just like to say thank you.

Thank you to the Board in 1990 who took a leap of faith and hired me (Arthur Thormann, Gordon Knox, Reg Morris, Elver Olsen, Eldon Dane and then President Harm Gerrits to name a few).

Thank you to the ECAA members, many of whom have become close personal friends, for welcoming Ned and me (and later Tammy) into your ECAA family.

Thank you for the opportunity of being part of the committee who created the PEC program and saw ECAA transition to a "Professional" Association.

Thank you to Alberta Labour for trusting us with administration of the Master's program for 15 years – a huge testament to this Association and its leaders.

Thank you to Art Thormann and Brian Halina, as well as the IBEW Business Managers over the years, for their trust and confidence in me to maintain confidentiality, by allowing me to record negotiation minutes. The respect that was shown throughout the years is still very endearing to me.

Thank you for the opportunity to travel around the province to meet many of the founding Chapter members in researching ECAA's history for the 40th anniversary.

Thank you for allowing Ned and I to be part of your conventions. So many, many cherished memories and wonderful stories to hang on to.

Thank you to my staff - past and present – for your dedication to, and support of me over the years. Without you, I would not have succeeded and the Association would not be where it is now.

Thank you to my family, especially Ned and Tammy, for understanding all the evenings I wasn't at home to put supper on the table, missing your 8th grade grad, family functions; and for my being able to rely on both of you



for any and all the help I needed (whether it was toting boxes or stuffing envelopes or filling in to do anything) – you were always there for me when I needed you.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you (the membership of this amazing Association) and the Boards I have been part of, for the trust shown in allowing me to work with, and for, all of you over the past 30 plus years. This is the best job and career I could ever have asked for.

I know I am leaving the Association in good hands. Christine, Dorothy, Camille and Tammy – thank you for all your ongoing hard work. I know you will welcome and provide the same support to my replacement, **Robin Bobocel**. Robin, I wish you nothing but success as you take over the reigns, and on behalf of the ECAA family – WELCOME!

ECAA Welcomes



Robin has held a number of senior positions in a wide variety of sectors, with a strong background in lobbying, advocacy, as well as having significant experience in developing and executing both strategic and operational plans.

Most recently, Robin was a strategy consultant to a variety of clients, in the areas of economic development and government relations. Previous to this, he was the Director of Strategy and Chief of Staff to the President & CEO of NorQuest College. In this role, he led a number of strategic initiatives that resulted in more streamlined and efficient operations as well as determining a path forward for the institution within a new government structure.

As the CEO of the Red Deer & District Chamber of Commerce, Robin was brought in to affect critical changes to the 124-year old organization. He was responsible for all aspects of the organization's finances and operations, including media/public relations and policy development/advocacy. Under his leadership, the chamber saw dramatic improvements in membership size, financial health and perhaps most notably in the recognition and awareness of the organization.

Closer to his new role at the ECAA, Robin was the Executive Director of Concrete Alberta, the industry association representing the ready-mixed concrete sector in Alberta. Again, Robin was hired as a change-agent, and led the rebranding of this 55-year old organization. As part of this process, he led the organization through the development and implementation of a new strategic plan/direction that resulting in the organization to successfully expand its mandate to include government and public advocacy.

Due to his extensive political and management background, Robin was recruited by Premier Jim Prentice to accept a position as the Chief of Staff to the Alberta Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education, where he provided political and policy support directly to the Minister, while working closely with top-level bureaucrats and other elected officials.

Robin also spent five years at the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce as Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Policy. His primary responsibilities were for the overall operations of the organization; and the development and advocacy of the public policy produced by the Edmonton Chamber, the largest urban chamber of commerce in Canada at the time.

Robin was raised in northern Alberta, in an entrepreneurial family; an experience that was pivotal in shaping his beliefs and perspectives. He is a graduate of Brentwood College School in Mill Bay, BC, and attended Queen's University School of Business in their Masters of Business Administration (EMBA) program.

Robin has been married to wife, Kristiena since 2004, who is the owner of a successful Edmonton-based optical business, and together, they are the proud parents of two young daughters. In addition to spending time with his family, he enjoys travelling, cooking and riding motorcycles.

Robin is excited to get back to his roots in working with, and advocating for business in Alberta so that he can help electrical contractors in Alberta grow and become more successful for the benefit of all Albertans.

Upcoming Training & Webinars

2021 CE Code Update Seminar Dates . Registration also available [online](#). For more information on code please email ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca

June 24th code update course in person Calgary added; July 6th and August 6th zoom only.

AHS guidelines will be followed for in person sessions. APD Points apply for PEC's.

1 day low voltage Arc Flash & Shock: Wednesday, June 16th 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

[Register Here](#) APD Points Apply. This session will be delivered virtually and instructor led using zoom.

SMART PHONE SAVVY: SAVE 30 MINUTES A DAY BY IMPROVING YOUR PORTABLE PRODUCTIVITY

Imagine turning a late-starting meeting into getting a few quick tasks off your to-do list. If your Smartphone isn't integrated with your office process, you are losing about 30 minutes a day of productive time.

Portable Productivity is all about the power of ACCURATE responsiveness, what our current work world demands! Maximizes your Smartphone Savvy for optimal on-the-go productivity, reducing redundancies upon return to your office:

- Improve Performance – Configure your Smartphone for enhanced output by eliminating extra keystrokes and unnecessary functions.
- Workflow Integration – Use various apps to simplify daily workflow and follow-up more effectively.
- Streamline Functionality – Customize your device to access essential apps for easier and faster searching.
- Quick Shortcuts – Implement proven timesaving shortcuts for faster turn-around and far less frustration.

Instructor Karen Turner. Karen is a professional Efficiency Coach, and this shows in her to the point, clear, concise, doesn't waste words and stays on topic approach. She uses humor and analogies to illustrate her ideas and she listens carefully to questions. Karen's proven solutions have helped over 20,000 managers, entrepreneurs and their employees increase their efficiency and decrease their environmental impact.

Cost \$20 ECAA Member \$25 Non Member

[REGISTER HERE](#)

****zoom link will be emailed Tuesday June 8th - to pay by AMEX, contact the ECAA office: 780.451.2412**

Fire Alarm Training Course June 21 - 25, 2021. Register

Here: <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/edmonton-fire-alarm-training-course-june-2021-2/>

As minimum numbers are required, please register early to avoid disappointment with course being cancelled.

For more information: [Alberta Fire Alarm Course](#)

[Fire Alarm Course Outline](#)

This session will be held in Edmonton following AHS guidelines and restrictions.

PEC Courses ([2021 Course Schedule](#))

Estimating & Finalizing the Tender - June 17th, 18th & 19th, 2021 (Edmonton) - course full *waitlist started. Email Christine (chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca) to add your name to the waitlist.

2021 Manual PEC Course Registration - use this form to register using your complimentary course certificate or to pre register for all the courses but pay for each individually as they come up.

For more information about the program and courses please contact chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca

June 23rd ECAA Lean CoP will cover:

- a review of all lean construction thinking we have covered
- the 5th, and final, principle of lean thinking-Pursuing perfection. Continuing on from implementing flow and pull, you will learn about:
 - what pursuing perfection looks like
 - how to do it

We'll tie everything together through a virtual tour, possibly two tours, of a lean company, and you will get a great sense of what lean in your company can look like, along with the results.

CoPs' offer a powerful professional learning strategy for the 21st century. A CoP is a group of people who "share a common concern(s) or passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly". The Promise of CoP's is to create new knowledge that will lead to improvement of all aspects of the Electrical Contracting Industry. When done right, continuous improvement through CoPs', results include 30% reduction of onsite time, up to 99% accuracy among engineering disciplines, 5-20% productivity above trade baselines, 15-80% rework below trade baselines, and the possible creation of company culture that beats every strategy ever devised. Consider participating to discover advanced possibilities for your companies.

Register Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsdeytqjkoGNROMyXYdZdKHWKx0J7cLhWX>

Industry News

ECAA is currently looking to fill the following vacant positions: Education Chair this is a chair position that will sit on our ECAA Board of Directors and Fort McMurray Chapter Secretary. For terms of reference and more information on these positions please email Sheri McLean (smclean@ecaa.ab.ca)

The following **Building STANDATA** is now available on the Alberta.ca website. Follow the links below to view or print copies.

[19-BCV-020](#) Structural insulated panels

To view all Building STANDATA [click here](#).

Our condolences to the friends and family of Richard Wirtanen who passed away on May 18th. Richard's family started the Wirtanen Electric Training Foundation. [Click here](#) to view his obituary.

Congratulations to Mr. Ken Crawford who has been appointed President of the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario (ECAO) by the ECAO Board of Directors. [To view the full announcement click here.](#)

Bartle & Gibson is now a new **Authorized Stocking Distributor for the entire line of Leviton Load Center**. For more information please read the full announcement on the [Bartle & Gibson website](#) or the attached PDF. [Press Release - Bartle & Gibson, Leviton Load Center](#)



E.B. Horsman & Son announces Sumeet Sodhi as the newest District Manager, Lower Mainland British Columbia.

Announcement can be viewed here: <https://ebhorsman.com/press-release/sumeet-sodhi-district-manager> and photo attached.

CAREERS 11th Annual Eric Newell “Kidz in Careers” Golf Tournament, presented by Fort McKay - Thursday, July 8th. [For more information and to register click here.](#)

CAREERS. There are only a few weeks left to get your applications in for your paid internship! If you are graduating this year and still want to explore your career options, keep an eye out for our new U21 program in select communities around the province. **Employers**, a summer intern could be just what you need to launch your company forward. Make sure to check out Careers Youth Internship Incentive Program for funding options. [Paid Internship Students Apply Here](#) [Employers Hire a Student Here](#)

Do you know a great trades professional or apprenticeship educator who's made a lasting impact in the skilled trades? Nominate them for the 2021 Alberta Trades Hall of Fame by June 15.

The Trades Hall of Fame recognizes and honours people who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication and commitment to their trade and to apprenticeship and industry training in Alberta.



Learn how to make a nomination: www.alberta.ca/athof

Source: Government of Alberta



The Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant spring intake has been extended to June 30. Alberta businesses affected by the April and May COVID-19 public health measures can apply.

The additional payment of up to \$10,000 is available to organizations operating before February 29, 2020 as well as new businesses that began operations between March 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021. Hotels, taxis and ride-sharing services are also eligible.

The grant offers financial assistance to Alberta businesses, cooperatives and non-profits with fewer than 500 employees that have faced restrictions or closures due to COVID-related public health orders, and have experienced revenue losses of at least 30%.

Learn more: <https://www.alberta.ca/sme-relaunch-grant.aspx>

Starting May 20, private and non-profit businesses can apply for funding to offset the cost of hiring and training unemployed or underemployed Albertans into new or vacant full-time jobs.

Employers can get up to:

- + \$25,000 for each new hire, or
- + \$37,500 for each new employee with a disability

Workers cannot apply for the program directly, but can let potential employers know they can apply for the Alberta Jobs Now program if they hire you.



This program will support Alberta's recovery by helping businesses re-open or grow their workforce and giving Albertans opportunities to gain the skills they need in today's job market.

Apply for the first intake by August 31: https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-jobs-now-program.aspx?utm_source=redirect&utm_medium=all&utm_campaign=LNL&utm_term=JobsNow

Source: [Government of Alberta](#)

The June 2021 Edition of Government of Alberta's Occupational Health and Safety eNews is now available. [Read it Here](#)

Alberta Construction Safety Association is excited to share that National Construction Safety Officer™ (NCSO™) and Health & Safety Administrator (HSA) designations can be completed online through ACSA's Virtual Instructor-Led Training and on-demand courses. For more information click here: <https://www.youracsa.ca/ncso-hsa/>

Source: [ACSA LinkedIn](#)

Canadian Apprenticeship Forum Releases 2021 Apprentice Demand Reports. The Canadian Apprenticeship Forum has released its latest labour market information report, **Apprentice Demand in Red Seal Trades**, which draws together apprenticeship trends data and projections to provide a forward-looking assessment of the country's demand and supply for trade certifications. This unique analysis takes into consideration key apprenticeship system characteristics including sensitivity to economic cycles and completion rates. The demand projections go beyond the skilled trades and include other related occupations such as supervisor, project manager and safety officer providing a more comprehensive outlook of the demand for certified journeypersons in the Canadian labour market.

Over the five-year period from 2021 to 2025, an estimated 163,785 new journeypersons will be required to sustain workforce certification levels across 56 Red Seal trades in Canada. Canada will need a total of 375,026 apprentices to meet the anticipated demand. "Offering meaningful training opportunities to apprentices and helping them complete is vital to meeting the anticipated demand. By encouraging employers to hire apprentices and apply training best practices, we can ensure the skilled trades workforce is ready to fill the gaps created by retiring journeypersons", said France Daviault, CAF-FCA Executive Director.

The following registration targets are estimates in the report providing insight into demand for apprentices across provinces and regions:

- Alberta: 75,467
- Atlantic Canada: 23,966
- BC: 83,277
- Manitoba: 13,914
- Ontario: 148,988
- Quebec: 21,254
- Saskatchewan: 8,160

The 2021 report examines the demand for specific occupations and is concentrated in fifteen Red Seal trades. Nationally, Boilermaker, Bricklayer, Industrial Mechanic (Millwright), and Welder are the trades with the highest demand.

Despite the current slowing of Canada's resource sector, demand for apprentices in the labour market remains, driven by journeymen who are retiring and leaving the workforce. Supply risk may increase over the near term depending on the severity of the decline in new registrations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. CAF-FCA will analyze in further detail the impact of COVID-19 on the skilled trades as Statistics Canada 2020 and 2021 data sets become available.

Source: CAF Newsletter

Uncomfortable safety eyewear? Here are some tips on ensuring comfort. The statistics don't lie. According to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) more than 700 Canadian workers per day sustain eye injuries on the job. More than 50% of these people were not wearing eye protection and most of these injuries would have been preventable had proper safety eyewear been worn.

There are lots of reasons employees don't wear their safety eyewear, but common reasons include: it is uncomfortable, constant fogging, they trap the heat, poor visual acuity, and they cause eye fatigue, strain, and headaches. If you are asking your employees to wear "over-the-top glasses" these are often uncomfortable, distort vision and cause vision strain. Proper selection, use and care of safety eyewear is critical to preventing these complaints.

[Read More Here](#)

What's Available from your Associate Members

Allstate Insurance now offers Pet Insurance.

Allstate has teamed up with [Pets Plus Us](#) offering preferred rates on pet insurance. Going to the vet can be expensive. Pet insurance can help give you peace of mind if your furry friend is ever in an accident or suffers an illness.



Take a look at the [cost of care for a pet](#) to learn more.

Pets are part of the family; help give them the treatment they deserve. Allstate customers are eligible to receive a preferred rate of 12% off their monthly pet insurance premium*. [Click here](#) to get a pet insurance quote today. (Note: you will be directed to Pets Plus Us's website where your discount will be displayed)





Contractors rely on their tools to help them get the job done right and on time. Unfortunately, there are times when an important piece of equipment may go missing because it's been misplaced between job sites or has been stolen.

To help you keep track of your equipment and protect against unexpected expenses and project delays, Federated Insurance has developed [this risk management resource](#) on record keeping best practices for contracting businesses.

Local Chapter Activity

CALGARY CHAPTER

Congratulations and welcome our newly elected Calgary Chapter Executive

President: Cam McIntosh, PEC

Vice President: Adrian Bourne

Treasurer: Justin Knight, PEC

Secretary: Ryan Peterson, PEC

Thank you to past president Chris Jardine for all of his volunteer hours and dedication serving the Calgary Chapter.

EDMONTON CHAPTER

Congratulations and welcome our newly elected Edmonton Chapter Executive

President: Shawn Bishop, PEC

Vice President: Frank Krupka, PEC

Treasurer: Jason Courtepatte, PEC

Secretary: Jay Kuystermans, PEC

Thank you to past president Jason Kuziw for the volunteer hours and dedication serving the Edmonton Chapter.

"The past year has been challenging on everyone, having to learn new skills and adapt, but the Edmonton Chapter has shown a resiliency. The support of the chapter meetings by zoom has been much better than expected; learn to accept it and move on. Can't wait to get to the in person meetings and usual social events. Thanks to our Associates – they have done an awesome job keeping everything interesting by getting involved in our meetings and helping us find success in reaching our members in a virtual setting. Congratulations to our new Chapter President Shawn Bishop – the Chapter is in very capable hands under Shawn's direction and leadership; he will do an awesome job. My role on the Edmonton Executive has been quite the journey, been educational in a number of different ways and has presented a great opportunity to develop new relationships and make a positive difference in our industry and community. I am grateful to the people in my personal and professional life who introduced me to the ECAA and to those who have helped me along the way. Thank you to Sheri, who has been the glue who has held everything together for all these years. The ECAA is still here for our Membership and our industry. Feedback is important – it helps us know whether or not we are doing a good job or going down the right path on certain issues. This is your association; it's our collective voices that keep things strong. Pleased to welcome our new members – in the midst of a pandemic, it's fantastic that we still have new members joining. Our new members need some initiation – can't wait until we can get back to meet in person! And we need those perogies on the menu!" Jason Kuziw

FORT McMURRAY CHAPTER

Congratulations and welcome our newly elected Fort McMurray Chapter Executive

President: Paul Schmaltz, PEC
Vice President: Zack St. Croix
Treasurer: Adam McNamara
Secretary: Vacant

Thank you to past president Daniel Kuderewko, PEC for his volunteer hours and dedication serving the Fort McMurray Chapter.

Wood Buffalo Apprenticeship Classic Golf Tournament in support of Scholarships at Keyano College. *
Space is limited. Sponsorships due by July 26th, 2021.

[Wood Buffalo Apprenticeship Classic](#)

For more information contact:

Maryse Lessard 780-747-4697 mlessard@wesco.com
Tim Brundage 780-799-9690 tim.brundage@stuartolson.com



Next Issue of The Spark will go out Friday, July 2nd, 2021



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 ecaa@ecaa.ab.ca

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

Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta
ecaa.ab.ca

