



**ECAA**

Electrical Contractors  
Association of Alberta

# THE SPARK

ECAA NEWSLETTER

September 3rd, 2021 | Issue 127

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **CHAPTER MEETINGS**

#### **Calgary Chapter**

Thursday, September 9th  
BBQ Social  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

[Register Here](#)

#### **Edmonton Chapter Meeting**

Monday, September 13th  
Chateau Louis Hotel  
5:00 pm Meeting

[Register Here](#) (In Person)

[Virtual Attendance](#) (Zoom)

#### **Fort McMurray Chapter Meeting**

Tuesday, September 21st  
Radisson Hotel  
5:30 pm Networking

[Register Here](#) (In Person)

[Virtual Attendance](#) (Zoom)

#### **North West Chapter Meeting**

Thursday, September 23rd  
Pomeroy Hotel Grande Prairie  
5:00 pm Networking

[Register Here](#) (In Person)

[Virtual Attendance](#) (Zoom)

### **UPCOMING TRAINING**

[2021 Code Update Training  
Schedule](#)

## President's Message

As summer vacation season comes to a close, we look forward to an extension of the summer construction season so that our economy continues to recover from the past 18 months. This past month we've seen some significant events occur, including the Prime Minister calling a federal election for September 20; a resurgence of the Covid-19 virus; and the loss of an industry legend.



On August 28, we learned of the passing of Don Letcher, longtime ECAA volunteer, Honorary Member, and instructor. Many will remember Don as a giant of a man, who was always willing to give of himself for the betterment of others and for our industry. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Heather, and to the rest of his loving family. Don will always be remembered fondly by so many within the ECAA as a leader, a mentor and as a friend. Rest in peace, Don.

With the close of summer, things will start to really ramp up at the ECAA. Our training schedule is packed full of educational opportunities, as well as Code seminars. Don't forget that you need to complete your Code update by March of 2022, so be sure to register for one of our upcoming courses now.

In addition, chapter meetings and provincial board activities are getting back to normal. It's our plan to have as many in-person meetings as possible, depending on

### **PEC Courses**

#### **Business & Public Relations**

September 22nd & 23rd, 2021

Online

[Register Here](#)

#### **Estimating & Finalizing the Tender**

(In Person)

October 7th, 8th & 9th, 2021

Calgary, AB

[Register Here](#)

#### **Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE)**

(In Person)

October 14th & 15th, 2021

ECAA Provincial Office, Edmonton

[Register Here](#)

#### **Electrical Project Management**

October 20th & 21st, 2021

Online

[Register Here](#)

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

Virtual Instructor led

Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021

[Register Here](#)

#### **Fire Alarm Training Course**

(In Person)

October 25 - 29, 2021

Calgary, AB

[Register Here](#)

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

[View the attached training schedule.](#)

For more information or to

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

Visit our website

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

any unforeseen Covid-related restrictions, so that we can reconnect with colleagues and friends, once again.

We've also got some fun events on the horizon this month, kicked off by the Bob Carson Classic Golf Tournament in Edmonton, which is once again sold out! On the heels of that great event, the Calgary Chapter is hosting a BBQ for their members; and then the Edmonton Chapter is hosting an End Zone Party at Commonwealth Stadium to watch the Elks take on the Stamps!

So, as you can see, the staff and volunteers of the ECAA have had a busy summer, planning these fun events and valuable education sessions; I would urge you all to take advantage of their hard work and make an effort to come out to show your support for our association and to update your knowledge.

I also want to mention that at the end of this month, we will be saying "good luck and farewell" to our long-time Executive Director, Sheri McLean. She will be spending this month tying up loose ends, and getting our new Executive Director, Robin Bobocel, up to speed on the final few things to make sure that he is positioned well to guide the Association forward into the future. I'll have more to share about Sheri in next month's edition of *The Spark*. So be sure to stop by the office for a coffee and a visit with Sheri before she goes.

All in all, I'm really excited for the things to come for the ECAA this season. I wish you all a fantastic September; stay safe and productive. I look forward to sharing more news with you next month.

Respectfully,

**Scott Hutton**

ECAA Provincial President

## Getting to Know Your Executive

*We thought our readers would like to know more about the volunteers who make up the ECAA Board of Directors so have added this feature into the Spark.*

**Getting to Know Your ACSA/WCB Representative Grant Wagar**

**Company:** Chemco Group of Companies

**Family Members:** My wife and two daughters, 11 and 10 years old.



**When and how did you start in the industry:** 1996 as an apprentice electrician through the RAP program.

**Favorite hobbies:** Golf and watching my kids play sports.

**Favorite TV show:** Hockey and football

**Favourite Sports Team:** Oilers and Raiders

**Most memorable vacation:** Australia

**Any word of advice to new electrical apprentices:** Show up and be on time, the rest takes care of itself.

**Favorite ECAA memory:** Getting my masters

**Best part of ECAA is:** Meeting others and sharing experiences to shape a better workplace.

## Upcoming Training & Webinars

**Code Update Seminars** running in person and virtual. Click here to view the fall training schedule: <https://ecaa.ab.ca/HotTopicDetails.aspx?id=347>

**Fire Alarm Training Course October 25-29, 2021** (Calgary) In person. This course meets the requirement for those journey persons who wish to apply for a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for the maintenance of Fire Alarm Systems, as well as a refresher course for those working in the field. *\*Minimum Numbers Required.* Register Here: <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/calgary-fire-alarm-training-course-oct-2021/>

**1 Day Arc Flash & Shock Training: Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021** (Virtual Instructor Led)  
The course is based on the requirements of the CSA Z462 Workplace Electrical Safety Standard. Attendees will receive appropriate knowledge to identify when they may be exposed to the electrical hazards of arc flash and/or shock and the actions they can take to eliminate exposure or reduce risk to as low as reasonably practicable. This training course is compliant and defensible as due diligence to OH&S regulations. Register Here: <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/1-day-virtual-led-arc-flash-shock-training-course-sep-22-2021/>

**PESL Virtual Instructor Led Training** [View the attached training schedule.](#)  
For more information or to register: [chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:chryniw@ecaa.ab.ca)

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### Upcoming PEC Courses

**Business & Public Relations (Instructor Carmen Wyton) Wednesday, September 22nd & Thursday, September 23rd, 2021. (Virtual Instructor Led Training).** Course participants will acquire a basic understanding of running an Electrical Contracting business through business development, planning, operations, human resources, marketing, and customer relations.

#### PEC Business Development Core Competencies

- Business Development and Planning: Environmental scanning – current state. Mission, Goals, Strategies, Prioritization, Differentiation, Monitoring performance
- Operations (Products/Services): Align operational investments to strategy: Revenue/expense opportunities. Product Differentiation.
- Human Resources: Aligning HR needs with strategy. HR Administration: Recruitment, selection, onboarding and performance management
- Marketing: Aligning marketing initiatives with strategy. Market segmentation. Owned, paid, earned and social media. Technology – cost benefit analysis.
- Customer Relations: Align customer programs to strategy. Target markets. Customer value proposition. Communications. Using technology and social media. Complaints, loyalty and referrals

[Click Here to Register For Business & PR](#)

**Estimating & Finalizing the Tender (Instructor Chris Reinert, PEC) Thursday, October 7th - Saturday, October 9th, 2021. (In Person, Calgary)**

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.

[Click Here to Register for Estimating & Finalizing the Tender](#)

**Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE) (Instructor Jeff Light, PEC) Thursday, October 14th & Friday, October 15th, 2021 (In Person, Edmonton).** 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.

[Click Here to Register for BEE](#)

**Electrical Project Management (Instructor Phil Perry) Wednesday, October 20th & Thursday, October 21st, 2021 (Virtual Instructor Led).** 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.

[Click Here to Register for Electrical Project Management](#)

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### Interactive Webinars

**[Influencing Difficult People](#) (Presenter: Denise Burrell)** Difficult people have learned that their approach helps them get their way. It seems that this small number of difficult people causes most of the stress in our lives, robbing us of our productivity and satisfaction. Our usual responses only seem to make it worse. In this interactive workshop, participants will develop the skills and responses needed to deal with these patterns more effectively and productively, so that you can better manage clients and coworkers.

#### [Course Description](#)

**Date:** Thursday September 23, 2021 **Time:** 8:30 am – 10:00 pm  
**\$20 ECAA Member/\$25 Non-Member** *\*\*link will be sent the day of the seminar* **\*1 APD Point**  
**Register Here:** <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/influencing-difficult-people-september-23-2021/>

**[Finding Opportunity in Conflict](#) (Presenter: Denise Burrell)** Conflict is an inevitable part of daily living. In our business, personal and social interactions, we encounter conflict. When mismanaged, it can be destructive and disruptive. If properly addressed, it is an opportunity for creativity and problem solving. In this workshop you will learn how to recognize the potential in conflict, get conflict into the open and establish a climate where both parties can negotiate a successful, win-win outcome.

#### [Course Description](#)

**Date:** Wednesday October 20, 2021 **Time:** 10:00 am – 11:30 am  
**Register Here:** <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/finding-opportunity-in-conflict-oct-20/>

**Date:** Thursday October 21, 2021 **Time:** 8:30 am – 10:00 AM  
**Register Here:** <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/finding-opportunity-inconflict-october-21-2021/>  
**\$20 ECAA Member/\$25 Non Member** *\*\*link will be sent the day of the seminar*  
**\*1 APD Points**

**[Generations at Work](#) (Presenter: Denise Burrell)** This workshop focuses on the unique challenges brought on by having four different generations coexisting and working side-by-side in the same workplace. Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials and Gen Z often have different approaches which can cause increased workplace tension. This workshop examines the differences and challenges participants to look for ways to bridge the communication gap to improve your business.

#### [Course Description](#)

**Date:** Wednesday November 24, 2021 **Time:** 10:00 am – 11:30 am  
**Register Here:** <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/generations-at-work-nov-24/>

Date: Thursday November 25, 2021 Time: 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Register Here: <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/generations-work-november-25/>

\$20 ECAA Member/\$25 Non Member \*\*link will be sent the day of the seminar  
\*1 APD Point

## Industry News

**All of us at ECAA and many of our members are saddened to learn of Don Letcher passing.** He was a giant in the industry and a mentor to many. Don was an Honorary Member of ECAA. He led Code updates for many years and mentored and helped a countless number of people with questions about the business and inspections. Our deepest sympathies and condolences go out to Heather, and the rest of Don's family and friends. He will be missed. [To view Don's obituary click here.](#)



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**The Safety Codes Council Office Reopens September 7, 2021.** Members of the public will once again be able to access the Council's office in downtown Edmonton. Online access to their services remain along with remote options for meetings and courses. Renewals, course registration, and organization administration will continue to be available through Council Connect.

**Safety Codes Council Will No Longer Sell the Alberta Fire Alarm Systems Guide as of August 31, 2021.** This guide is now out of date; for more information on an updated version contact CFAA [www.cfaa.ca/store](http://www.cfaa.ca/store)

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**Canadian Apprenticeship Forum 2021 Call for Nominations.** They are now accepting nominations for the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum's Board of Directors. This is a great opportunity for those who want to be involved in setting the organization's strategic direction and overseeing its work on behalf of Canada's apprenticeship community. Nominations are being accepted for the [following positions](#): Employer (1 position); Jurisdiction (1 position); Labour (1 position); Educator (2 positions - one 4 year term & one 1 year term).

[To nominate and read more click here.](#) Deadline for nominations is September 17th, 2021.

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**Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) Alberta In-Person & Virtual Fall Energy Efficiency Conference October 7, 2021 (Calgary).** Theme: Trends in Energy and Analytics. This technical conference will consist of a half-day event with multiple opportunities to learn and network. Leaders from Industry across Alberta will speak on important energy topics, providing an insight into their company's operations, projects and initiatives being taken to improve energy-efficient technologies and practices. The session will include opening and closing keynote sessions, technical presentations and panel discussions. For more information and registration details contact [info@aeelberta.org](mailto:info@aeelberta.org)

## Call For Speakers - Training Day 2022

**Planning for ECAA Technical Training Day 2022 is underway.** Training Day will be held at the JW Marriott in Ice District, Edmonton on Friday, May 27th. Presentations will be dedicated to technical training sessions in codes and standards, alternative energy and general interests.

If you are interest in presenting please send us a bio; brief outline of your presentation and the benefits it would provide attendees along with time required for session (50 minutes, 75 minutes or longer).

Please email your submissions to Robin Bobocel ([rbobocel@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:rbobocel@ecaa.ab.ca))

**\*Deadline for Submissions is October 29th, 2021**

*On behalf of our Training Coordinator Larry Cantelo, PEC thank you for your submissions.*

## New Members

**Welcome New Members!**

**Contractors:** Impact Lighting o/a Irontech Controls (Edmonton), Surdhar Electrical Ltd. (Edmonton), Team Electrical (Ohaton)

**Associates:** Herc Rentals (Calgary)

**Journeyman Associate:** Darren Swaren (Medicine Hat)

## Local Chapter Activity



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

**Thursday, September 9th | 5:00 pm**

Table Top Displays & Door Prizes and more!

**Tickets Still Available until Tuesday, September 7th.**

[Purchase BBQ Tickets Here](#)

**Edmonton Chapter** Monday, September 13th Chateau Louis 5:00 pm networking, meeting 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm.

**Meeting Sponsor:** ABB

**Associate Spotlight:** LSW Lighting: 3D Printed Luminaries (Michael Gonzalez) and John Knoll PEC (Retired) Electrical Shock Injury Awareness

*Hybrid format with the option to participate virtually.*

**Register for In Person Here:** <https://events.ecaa.ab.ca/events/edm>

**Virtual (Zoom) Registration:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9101562520>

**32nd Annual Bob Carson Classic Golf Tournament** Wednesday, September 8th, 2021, Highlands Golf Course. **SOLD OUT!**

**Thank you to our Sponsors:** Gescan; Eaton; EWEL and Canem; Wirtanen Electric and Pace Technologies.

**Thank you to** Fortis; BJ Electric and Rig Hand Distillery for supplying prizes!



## Tickets Still Available!

### End Zone Party

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

### Cost \$110 + GST

Includes game ticket; dinner on the field and access to the end zone prior to the game.

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

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**Fort McMurray Chapter** Tuesday, September 21st at the Radisson Hotel. Networking 5:30 pm; meeting 6:00 – 7:30 pm

**Meeting Sponsor:** Schneider Electric

**Associate Spotlight:** Schneider Electric (Hao Hu) New Front Access MV switchgear- Premset and John Knoll PEC (Retired) Electrical Shock Injury Awareness

**Register for In Person:** Email Camille ([caustin@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:caustin@ecaa.ab.ca))

**Virtual (Zoom) Registration:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting>

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**North West Chapter** Thursday, September 23rd at the Pomeroy Hotel, Grande Prairie. Networking 5:00 pm meeting 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

**Meeting Sponsor:** Leviton

**Associate Spotlight:** Leviton (Del Ryce) Leviton's NEW LEV series Pin & Sleeve Offering and John Knoll PEC (Retired) Electrical Shock Injury Awareness

**Register In Person:** Email Camille ([caustin@ecaa.ab.ca](mailto:caustin@ecaa.ab.ca))

**Virtual Attendance (Zoom):** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting&nbsp;>

*Next Issue of The Spark will go out Friday, October 8th, 2021*



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## Contact Us

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

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

**Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta**

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

