



**ECAA**

Electrical Contractors  
Association of Alberta

# CONTACTOR

*“Voice of the Electrical Industry in the Province of Alberta”*



**MAY 24 - 26, 2018**

Please join President Eric Fadden, Rose Ginther and your Provincial Board of Directors at our upcoming Technical Training Day & Annual General Meetings

*Fairmont*  
HOTEL MACDONALD

# President's Message

It was an eventful first quarter for the ECAA starting with our first Provincial Board meeting of 2018 held on January 19th. We were delighted to welcome 2 new Board members to the table. Our new Public member from Edmonton, Susan Rockwood and newly elected Lethbridge Chapter President Tim Fehr. It was also nice to see so many stay the weekend to attend the Edmonton Chapter Presidents Ball on January 20th. With greetings and representation from all three levels of Government. A special thank you to Honorable Lori Sigurdson (Minister Seniors & Housing); MLA's Jon Carson and Rod Loyola; Members of Parliament Matt Jeneroux and Kelly McCauley; and Councillor Mike Nickel for attending. Hosted by Brent and Monique Connell it was most certainly an evening to remember.



C. Eric Fadden, PEC

The adventure continued in February with our Board meeting in Calgary on the 8th, the day the City administration officially told people to take the day off and stay home due to the extreme weather. That didn't stop 7 Board members from Edmonton to meet with the 3 Board members from Calgary who in spite of the severe weather, braved the storm to be there. Kudos to our Calgary friends for risking life and limb to be there. That same evening we all stayed to attend the Calgary chapter industry night.

One of the most discussed topics that came up in February was on trade definitions with the Alberta Construction Association via the Edmonton Construction Association. Several of our members have put a lot of effort into this both recently and in the past to provide accurate feedback from our industry in standardizing trade definitions when bidding. Emails went out prior to the February 23rd

deadline and information was able to get through to aid in this process. Thank you to all who responded and helped our industry's voice be heard.

March has been busy as Sheri McLean and Terry Milot have been touring the province with Joel Fundytus from the Electrical Industry Training Centre presenting on the solar rebate program. I was fortunate to catch the first presentation in Red Deer and the fifth in Lloydminster. The presentation touches briefly on all of the aspects of a solar installation including who is a qualified installer in the province of Alberta.

On March 16th Sheri, Terry and myself were in Calgary again to attend a presentation on Prompt Payment Legislation by Singleton Urquhart Reynolds Vogel LLP. The presentation was organised by the Alberta Trade Contractors Coalition and held at the Calgary Construction Association office. It was well attended by representatives from multiple trade disciplines. The ECAA was well represented with 8 members from Calgary also joining us. The presentation gave time for discussion and feedback which was collected as part of the meeting as the presenters are forwarding the information on the Federal Government.

For those who are planning to attend the out of country convention in France, Uniglobe and ECAA will be hosting a meet and greet at the UNIGLOBE One Travel, Edmonton Office: 10237 109 St. May 15th at 6:30PM to give us a chance to review the itinerary and get our ticketing details for travel. I will see you all then.

With most of the details for the upcoming AGM in Edmonton finalized both Rose and I are increasingly excited as May 24th draws nearer. If you haven't already registered please take the time to do so. This event promises to be a great end to our year with a fully packed and informative Training Day and festivities in the heart of downtown Edmonton at the Fairmont Hotel MacDonald.

Until we connect again  
Yours in Service

## Chapter Reports

### Calgary

#### Andrew McGuire

The last couple months have been fairly eventful for the Calgary Chapter. February 8th we held our annual casino themed Industry night. Despite the bad weather we had a great turnout, about 80 potential new and existing members came out for the party. Prior to the casino event we had a few reports and presentations. Cindy Cameron and David Spratt, PEC shared the stage with me to speak about the benefits of being a part of the ECAA. Cindy spoke on the behalf of the Associate Members, about the value of building relationships and having a voice within the ECAA. David spoke about the benefits of the Professional Electrical Contractor (PEC) education and the valuable experience to be gained from the program. Reza Kamrani of Federated Insurance provided a special presentation on the risks of Cyber Attacks. He gave us a brief understanding of the current



exposure for a business and steps to mitigate the risk. Reza also informed us of possible insurance coverage available to businesses.

At our March 8th meeting, Mark Lipton from Mersen Canada provided the pre-presentation and gave a detailed talk about Surge Protection. The meeting presentation was given by David Pedora of FBC Canada. He spoke about audit triggers and tip's to both avoid them and what to do if you happen to get audited. The presenters drew out a large crowd of about 60 members to hear the information they had to offer. Terry Milot joined us from the Provincial Board to give a brief update about the Prompt Payment Legislation. An information meeting on was held at the Calgary Construction Association (CCA) office on March 16th. At that meeting Singleton Reynolds presented us with a detailed description on how the prompt payment is expected to look.

During the last two meetings we added a new contractor, C&J Electric, Clarke Falk and a new PEC, David Arkell. Our next meeting will be held on April 12th at the Port O'Call. We will have presentation from both Carma Industries about Utility Sub Metering and Brad Biollo who will speak about Bluebeam ReVu. Please come out and join us for the good food and conversations.

# Central Chapter

Darcy Teichroeb, PEC, CME

The Central Chapter held a meeting on March 7th, 2018 with a very positive attendance of 35 members. The meeting was sponsored by Ecol Electric and we were presented with a very informative session on Solar Energy and how the Electrical Contractors will be involved with the installation and maintenance of these systems.

Terry Milot, CECA and Legislation Chair, updated the membership on all the work and efforts of the ECAA regarding legislation activities and the progress of the Prompt Payment Legislation. Eric Fadden, ECAA Provincial President, updated the membership on activities of the Provincial Board and the upcoming AGM in Edmonton and the out of country trip in June. Members



were also updated on the activities of the Electrical Sub Council and Gene Sale updated members on some changes happening in the City of Red Deer relative to Electrical Permitting and Inspections. The meeting was very busy with networking and social communications between contractors, suppliers, and guests.

Thank you to Provincial President Eric Fadden, Terry Milot, and Sheri McLean for traveling down from Edmonton to support the Central Chapter Meeting. Thank you to Ecol Electric, Trevor Hartley, for sponsoring the meeting and the Solar Presentation by Joel Fundytus. The next meeting will be held September 26th, 2018

# Edmonton

Brent Connell, PEC

Christmas 2017 came and went and we are well into 2018 now, and there has been lots going on at the Edmonton Chapter. First was some sad news. On December 28th, 2017, John Gullion passed away. John was the President of the Wirtanen Training Foundation and was a regular attendee and big supporter of ECAA events. John will be missed.



Next was our January 15th, 2018 Chapter Meeting where 49 guests attended. Bob Maslanko provided an update on PEC and Larry Cantelo on Training Day at the upcoming AGM. The evening presenter was Pat Barnes who spoke on behalf of the "People in Need Shelter Society". This is a non-profit organization that provides assisted living to +/- 129 residents with special needs. They are currently in the construction phase of a new facility and are looking for any financial support, large or small, from our membership to help support their organization.

Shortly after was the Presidents Ball on January 20th, 2018. What a fabulous evening it was. Awesome food, great entertainment, and politicians from every level of government not seen at one of our events before. The "Voice of the Electrical Industry" is being heard.

The ECAA had a table set up at two High Schools in February in conjunction with Careers, The Next Generation. Thanks to the volunteers for helping out.

February 26th, 2018 was our Industry Night. Ninety-eight, yes, 98 folks showed



VP Jay Kuystermans, PEC, manning the table

up for this event that saw twenty-three of our Associate Members set up table top displays with the latest products our industry has to offer. We had the following star-studded individuals provide the following updates:

- Eric Fadden brought greetings from the Provincial Board
- Bob Clarke – benefits of Associate Membership
- John Knoll – benefits of Contractor Membership
- Bob Maslanko – benefits of PEC
- Terry Milot – updates on Legislation, Energy Efficiency Alberta, and Solar
- Jeanette DeBruin – showed a video to kick off the marketing campaign

Our main speaker for the evening was Simon Rinaldi from Federated Insurance and the topic was Cyber Attacks, the risks, and some methods of protection.

March 19th, 2018 was our most recent Chapter meeting. The pre-meeting presentation was on Surge protection by Mark Lipton from Mersen Canada and 67 attended. The evening meeting was also well attended when 59 showed up to hear Dave Bentley from Marsh Canada talk to us about some of the developments that have occurred in the bonding world since the downturn in the economy.

Skills Canada is looking for material donations to be used at the upcoming Provincial Competition on May 31 & June 1, 2018 here in Edmonton. Materials are preferred over cash donations as materials are used specifically for the electrical competition, where cash donations go into the overall pot for the entire event. Please contact the ECAA Provincial office if you have material to donate.

We have recently taken on a larger role with the Capital Region Electric Club (CREC). This is a social club that is primarily made up of our Associate Members. They organize events throughout the year and raise money for Scholarships and Bursaries to be used for family members of members that belong to CREC. Money is raised through 50/50 sales and donations. Check out their website. This is another great way to network with people in our industry, have some fun, and at the same time, help support a few worthy individuals each year.

2018 Events coming up:

- May 10 – Brew Tour
- June 13 – Golf
- June 16 – Motor Bike Ride
- December 7 – Christmas Luncheon
- And many others in between, so stay tuned

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Presenters, Sponsors, Chapter and Provincial Executive and Directors, Volunteers, ECAA Staff, Chateau Louis Staff, and all of the Members who attend and participate in our great organization.

# Fort McMurray

## Tim Brundage

Well Spring has sprung and the days are starting to get longer as we all roll our clocks ahead. It certainly didn't take long for Spring fever to set in this year as we did get a good taste of warm weather for a short spell. Spring time is one of those events that we all truly anticipate as the arrival of warm sunshine creates a sense of newness and the return of such things as, green grass, flowers, leaves, and not to mention all of our favourite summer time events.



To that point, we had great weather on March 13th with sunny skies and plus eight degrees. Many folks turned out for the 2:00 Solar Energy Program presented by Terry Milot and Joel Fundytus. Most everyone stuck around for our 6:00 pm chapter meeting which gave us a very nice

# Lethbridge

## Tim Fehr

The Lethbridge Chapter has appreciated a great start to the New Year. Our first meeting was on January 17th and we enjoyed a great turn out with thirty-one members and guests in attendance.

Rob Coleman, President for the past seven years, stepped down as the Lethbridge Chapter President, but has worked diligently, and successfully, to establish a new executive committee to stand in his place. As a result of his work, Chapter elections occurred on this night which realized, for the first time in a long time, an executive committee established. With new Directors Lee Clarkson PEC, Brandon Smith and Joe Rougeau in place, Vice President Edgar Garcia

# North East

## Keith Urlacher

Greetings, from the North East chapter. We had a busy week in our chapter this week starting off March 21st with a solar presentation by Joel Fundytus from the Electrical Industry Training Center, followed by our chapter meeting. There were 24 in attendance. FBC Canada did a presentation on Top Audit Triggers. I would like to thank Eccol



# North West

## Brandon Thoma, PEC

2018 has come in full steam ahead. The North West chapter is experiencing an oil and gas sector that is getting busier by the month. Commercial projects continue at a steady pace with spring upon us. Residential renovations are a hot topic with the warmer weather becoming more common. Don't under estimate mother nature, she seems to want to keep old man winter around for a little while longer with continued snowfall well in to the end



attendance of 21 folks. There was great participation throughout the evening as we covered off all of the upcoming events, such as the upcoming Dual Credit Electrical Program at Keyano, RMWB Inspections meeting being held at Fire Hall No. 5, the May 9th Code Update course which the Inspectors mentioned they would fill, as well as the upcoming AGM and Training Day May 24 – 26th! Terry Milot also provided everyone with a great Provincial Board meeting update, as well as what exciting things are taking place with the legislation both in Alberta and across the country! Great job Terry! Our next Chapter Meeting is being held on May 8th as Eaton Canada will be doing a presentation on the Synergex Panel.

Once again, there is an energy in the room that is gathering strength and momentum as relationships are being built and a vision of a stronger Electrical Industry in Alberta is being recognized and shared amongst our ECAA members and associates. I feel very fortunate to be able to take part in and I am very thankful for all of the support and leadership the ECAA has provided me. Thank you again to Sheri McLean and her team as well as everyone on our Executive Board as well as all of our members and associates. Together we are the Voice of the Electrical Industry!

and myself as President, I look forward to what our Chapter can do, together, for the City of Lethbridge and our surrounding area. I welcome Rob Coleman as our Past President and look forward to working with him and the executive over the next two years.

Strong, heartfelt, gratitude and appreciation filled the room as we thanked Rob for his dedication to what the ECAA has become for our Chapter in Lethbridge.

**Thanks Rob!**

Thank-you to the ECAA for your continued, and on-going support of our Chapter.

for sponsoring the meeting.

On March 22nd we had the new code update as well with about 70 in attendance. We will be wrapping up the week with our Board meeting in Edmonton on March 23. On Wednesday May 2nd we will be attending the 9th annual Try-A-Trade in Lloydminster.

I would like to thank the Board and our members and guests for their attendance for making our meetings a success.

of March causing the related service calls to continue. The big up and coming news is the ECAA Training Day and AGM in Edmonton starting with a golf tournament on May 24th, Training Day on the 25th and AGM and the Presidents Gala on the 26th. The Training Day is looking really informative with seminars on Smart Home Wiring, Battery Based Storage, the ALL NEW section 10 of the Canadian Electrical Code and a Safety codes round table discussion. For all you fellow PEC's, Training Day is the best opportunity to obtain your Annual Professional Development points. Spring is time for great new beginnings and fresh starts. Good luck in the second quarter and God Bless.

# EDMONTON BALL



Left to right: Shani Ahmad, MP Kelly McCauley, Rose Ginther, Eric Fadden, MP Matt & Lily Jeneroux & Samantha Hees



Jeanette & Bert DeBruin and Alta Pro Electric



Left to right: Eric Fadden, Brent Connell, Bob Clarke, Terry Milot, MLA Jon Carson, John Knoll, Hon. Lori Sigurdson, MLA Rod Loyola, Jay Kuystermans, Scott Crichton and Shani Ahmad



Left to right: Helen & Steve Warholik, Keven Lefebvre, Terry & Donna Barnett, Karen & Tim Tarita, Tim Fehr & Kelly Gray



Left to right: Krista, Brent, Monique and Jared Connell



Hon. Lori Sigurdson, Minister of Seniors & Housing



Edmonton City Councillor Mike Nickel



Left to right: Brent Connell, Sheri McLean, MLA Jon Carson; Shani Ahmad; Hon. Lori Sigurdson, Terry Milot, MLA Rod Loyola & Eric Fadden

# Committees

## Apprenticeship

Chris Rauschning, PEC

As springtime approaches, it is at this time of year that apprenticeship meetings and events start to take place. It is at these meetings that I am able to gather the most current information on the status of the Electrical trade and its issues.

Recently I attended the annual Local Apprenticeship Committee (LAC) meeting. Although the Presiding officer was unable to attend, an informal meeting / discussion was held anyways. Some of the topics discussed, were Compliance information, employers responsibilities, introduction of the new AIT Manager for the electrical trade, recent 2018 Code release, and local apprenticeship client services update.



We now have a new AIT Manager for the trade, Brent Melnyk, who has replaced Ward Mewhort. We should thank Ward for the past half dozen years or so, for his work on guiding the entire PAC and LAC committee's and always working on providing the best and most current information on the status of the trade. We also have a new Local Client services Lead Officer for the electrical trade, Chad Hoflin. Chad operates out of the 7th Street Plaza offices and would will be our point of contact for local apprenticeship issues.

Some Compliance information was discussed and one item was the requirement of employers to be aware of the random site visits by local apprenticeship officers. They are reminding all apprentices to have on or near them their apprenticeship information cards, or proof of enrollment. They are accepting a picture of the document on their phones if the actual card is not on their person. Also Client Services are reminding employers that a worker, performing duties in the Electrical Scope must be indentured. Also reminding us that there is no probation period on enrollment. As soon as someone is working in scope, they must be enrolled into the trade.

There was some information provided regarding the introduction of the new 2018 code and how it will be introduced into the Training Facilities. It sounds like the new codes will be integrated in the curriculum for the new September 2019 training period. This will give the institutions and AIT all of 2018 to update the training material and exams. Also mentioned was that the new code will not be enforced until February 2019.

All of the above information was general discussion items and official documentation will be released over the coming months. I will be attending the official rescheduled LAC meeting once that date is re-set. Also I will be attending the PAC AGM which will be held April 6th. This usually the main event for final industry stats and reviewing past year's accomplishments and the next years plans. This is a fairly brief summary, but it is just the beginning of a lot more detailed information to come over the next couple of months. Thanks.

## Associate Liaison

Bob Clarke

The ECAA is a very active, well respected and deeply entrenched association that has been serving the electrical trade, electrical industry and construction industry in Alberta as whole for well over 5 decades. The ECAA is committed to working hard to represent all of its members in an effort to ensure as healthy as possible a work environment exists for all. Over the past few years we have seen increased engagement at all levels; from Federal Government and national industry associations to Provincial Government and local code and safety issues that protect all Albertans.



The ECAA continues to broaden scope, grow membership, review role and make adjustments necessary to ensure it brings the most value to all of its membership and the electrical industry as a whole.

How does the Associate Membership fit into this? Associates have the opportunity to:

- Attend monthly chapter meetings where you are able to develop relationships with contractors and other associates on a non-business level. Many of these relationships become far more valuable as they truly become personal and not just work.
- Attend chapter and provincial social events as well as the AGM & Conference; further enhancing your personal and professional peer to peer engagement.

- Give back to the industry and membership by making valued presentations at chapter meetings across the Province. In fact, in 2017 the implementation of one hour pre-meeting technical presentations has resulted in an increase in attendance as well as new and retained membership and that was primarily a result of the associate membership as they are the presenters.
- Ability to showcase your company in the "Getting to Know Your Associates" section in the Spark (ECAA's e-newsletter);
- Ability to showcase new product and technologies during ECAA industry and social events;
- Associates have the opportunity to have their voice heard at the Board through this chair ... anonymously or otherwise ... but know that your voice is wasted if it never gets here.  
\*\*\*Please be heard. We need to hear from each other. We are stronger together\*\*\*

What are we working on that will benefit the associate membership? We will be adding an \*Associates\* tab to the ECAA website where all distributors, manufacturers and other associate information will be accessible from including:

- Announcements
- Events
- Employment Opportunities
- Manufacturer Training Programs
- Manufacturer Product Releases and Updates
- Services Announcements
- Price Increases

Stay tuned. And again ... BE HEARD!

# Communications

## Jeanette DeBruin

I am very excited to share that the digital media campaigns have been a huge success! Our goals for the marketing committee for 2018 are well on its way. In March, the ECAA has launched (2) YouTube videos namely: "A day in the life of an electrician" and "What is the ECAA?" The view rates for the YouTube ads have shown that we have received over 9000 views in just a couple of weeks. The view rates of 39% and 32% are double and triple the normal rate of 15% ads of this type. Our goals on the campaigns are being achieved in a big way as the member searches are up 237%! It is great to note that 71% of the people visiting the site are new!



We have a Google Adwords campaign that is working well, and next month we plan to amp this up with a Facebook Campaign. Stay tuned for some more great campaigns that will enhance the communications plan of the ECAA. Our costs and clicks for You Tube have been so worth the value, and we are grateful to be working with the experts namely Mike Blackmore of Big Click Media and Grant Ainsley, Media Trainer and Speaker.

On February 16th the Marketing Committee had a meeting to discuss our strategy for the year. We wish to recommend you get to know your Associate members as they bring much value to the Association. We thank them for

their contributions as they are the conduit for your success and integral to the Electrical Contractors. New posters are created for each Chapter to be advertised with industry partners, showcasing the dates and speakers for the meetings. All topics are a great resource and beneficial for the industry. Proud to support #ECAA Associates!

Our latest marketing meeting was March 23rd where we finalized some more materials to advertise the Chapter Meetings and give our Associates more materials to share with the industry.

The Journeyperson associate membership has many benefits and we hope to expand on that in the next campaigns. As the ECAA is the information source of the Electrical Industry in Alberta, the more we connect the more we grow. We extend a big welcome to any journeyperson who would wish to join the association as your opportunities and learning will help you to sustain and grow your career.

New pins have been designed to thank our volunteers for all the work they do. As part of the industry I encourage everyone to do their part to protect, engage and work together. "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision" Andrew Carnegie

On that note, I wish to thank the incredible Board of the ECAA, the Marketing committee and all the staff as we work together to serve the industry. To make it better, stronger and united.

Happy Easter.

# Data Communications

## Jason Burke, RCDD

### LOW VOLTAGE CONTRACTORS - CALL TO ORDER

- An organizational structure is being formulated within Alberta to be the voice of the low voltage cabling industry.
- If you work or own a business within any of the markets of the low voltage cabling/construction industry in Alberta, you are encouraged to attend. To be eligible to attend the initial meeting, you must be a contractor or installer.

We are seeking business leaders to come forward and help support the initiative in each of the regions. See map and locations within, the province has been divided into 7 regions.



### INITIAL MEETING DATES

Edmonton	Monday, April 16th	3:30 PM	Chateau Louis Conference Centre
Fort McMurray	Tuesday, May 8th	4:30 PM	Best Western Sawridge
Calgary	Thursday, May 10th	3:30 PM	Best Western Port O'Call

### WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

- Low Voltage Cabling for POE systems has/is pushing beyond acceptable levels for Class 2 wiring. CEC 2018 (Canadian Electrical Code) has new section 16-300 with growing concerns over heat dissipation, bundling and the growing Watts/port. This brings more CODE concerns to low voltage installers.
- To work safely and to protect workers from harm.
- We need a permit and inspection system for all low voltage jobs.
- It's time to bridge the gaps between div 26/27/28 installers with some clear requirements for low voltage systems that are built today and moving forward to protect the integrity of our pathway and spaces.

Registration form and dates are on the ECAA website ([www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca)) or contact the Provincial office to register.

# Electrical Sub-Council

Darcy Teichroeb, PEC, CME

The Electrical Sub-Council held the first meeting of 2018 on February 5, 2018 in Edmonton. The meeting continued to review the outstanding action items and was presented with a couple new items for review.

- The ESC was presented with a number of presentations relating to a concern about meeting the required rodent protection requirements of CEC 64-210 (5). The presentations were in support of a request for a deviation process comparable to Ontario which allows the requirement of rodent protection be waived for rooftop systems that meet certain criteria. This issue is related to an associated issue of arc-fault protection of the module source conductors. The arc-fault issue is relative to series circuit vs parallel circuit fault protection. The request for a deviation is based on the feasibility and expense to install the rodent protection on large array installations.



- The ESC is also reviewing an observation that medium voltage termination kits have been used for years but the manufacturer/suppliers of these kits do not have CSA certification. It was identified that CSA does not have a certification program or standard for certifying this product.
- Further discussions continued about the requirement of the Oil and Gas Code not being required anymore since the 24th edition of the CEC will address these requirements including the need for engineering involvement for area classifications. It was noted again that the last Oil and Gas Code will be still be available for a reference document only. The Oil and Gas Code working group will be replaced with a Hazardous Locations Advisory working group.
- Discussions were held relative to the installation of Power Over Ethernet (POE) lighting cabling being performed under the data cabling industry. This raises the questions about permitting for these installations and the application of code requirements such as cable de-rating when cables are bundled and current carrying effects of the standard ethernet cables.

# Fire Sub-Council

Joe Davis

The meeting this month was focused on the restructuring of the safety codes council and harmonization with the national fire and building code. We reviewed the draft Standata's for emergency gas shut offs for gas stations, portable fire extinguisher tag requirements and fixed suppression extinguishing systems. The council developed a terms of reference for a working group to review the occupant loads in regards to the new



Alberta Building and Fire closed.

The last and most relevant to the electrical industry was the discussion around lockdowns and the use of two stage fire alarms in schools. There was an example of this in St Albert where a school wanted to have the children stay in the class rooms instead of evacuating on alarm. This brings up a larger discussion of the use of mass notification vs a fire alarm in these types of settings. At this point it is just an item for discussion but has been added to the standing items on the agenda for further discussion.

## JOE'S CODES

In this edition I wanted to discuss the recently released Standata 14-BCB-005 and 14-FCB-004 in regards to commissioning of fire and life safety systems. This Standata clarifies the standard that must be used when commissioning any device or system that is connected to or integrated into a fire and life safety system. There is also a template on the Standata that lists the common items that may be

included. I have included this list below. Please ensure at the time of tender that you are asking the engineers who the commissioning agent is and for a copy of the commission plan upfront so you can make allowances for the additional time required. Please reach out if you have any additional questions.

- Fire alarm systems
- Sprinkler & standpipes systems
- Fire pumps
- Electromagnetic locks
- door hold-open devices
- Kitchen fire suppression
- Elevator recalls
- Emergency power
- Emergency lighting
- Smoke and fire shutters & dampers
- Smoke control, ventilation & pressurization
- Other



# Labour

## Brian Halina

### Random Alcohol and Drug Testing

The Suncor Energy Random Drug Testing Policy grieved by UNIFOR Local 707A is the high profile Alcohol & Drug case for Alberta industry in the management of workplace safety. To understand this issue we have put together the following events.



**June 20, 2012,** Suncor announced to its employees that it would be introducing a new drug and alcohol policy on October 15, 2012 which would include random drug and alcohol testing in safety sensitive positions. In response to this announcement, the Union filed a grievance and applied to the Court of Queen's Bench for an Interim Injunction prohibiting Suncor from conducting random drug and alcohol testing until a Labour Arbitration Board rendered a decision on the grievance.

**October 12, 2012,** Justice Macklin granted an Interim Injunction pending completion of the arbitration. He directed that the grievance be considered as soon as possible.

Suncor sought a stay of this order in the Alberta Court of Appeal and on **October 17, 2012** Justice Watson dismissed Suncor's application.

**December 5, 2012,** the Alberta Court of Appeal dismissed Suncor's appeal from the decision of Macklin J, Côté JA dissenting.

A three member arbitration panel heard the 2012 UNIFO grievance in 2013. The arbitration award was released on **March 18, 2014**. The majority decision allowed the grievance whereas one arbitrator dissented and would have dismissed it.

Suncor applied for Judicial Review in the Court of Queen's Bench of this award. In a decision dated **May 18, 2016**, B.D. Nixon J granted the application for Judicial Review and remitted the matter back to arbitration before a fresh panel.

UNIFOR appealed the decision of B.D. Nixon J and on **September 28, 2017** the Alberta Court of Appeal unanimously dismissed the appeal and confirmed that the matter was to be remitted for a new arbitration to be heard by a fresh panel. **ECAA, Construction Owners Association of Alberta, Syncrude Canada, Construction Labour Relations and Enform Canada had Intervener Status supporting Suncor's position.**

UNIFOR has filed an application seeking leave to appeal this decision to the Supreme Court of Canada which was expected to be decided in February 2018.

If the Supreme Court decides in favour of Suncor – the 2012 grievance must be heard by a new Arbitration Panel – when the Arbitration Award is issued the party (Suncor or UNIFOR) that does not like the Award will likely appeal the Award all the way to the Supreme Court which could take 4 or more years.

If the Supreme Court decides in favour of UNIFOR – the Arbitration Award released on **March 18, 2014** stands.

Suncor revised their approach to random testing and on **October 19, 2017** announced it was implementing random alcohol and drug testing saying it continues to have pressing safety concerns related to workplace alcohol and drug use. It continues to have safety incidents including life altering injuries, fatalities, an alarming number of ongoing positive tests and hundreds of security incidents. The security incidents include impaired driving, drug seizures, individuals not compliant with Suncor's Alcohol & Drug Policy and finding alcohol, drugs and drug paraphernalia. Because of these ongoing safety risks starting December 1, 2017 Suncor would begin random alcohol and drug testing of employees working in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) who are in safety sensitive or specified positions. Contractors who deploy workers to Suncor sites in the RMWB would also be required to conduct random alcohol and drug testing.

In response to this announcement, UNIFOR applied to the Court of Queen's Bench for an Interim Injunction prohibiting Suncor from conducting random drug and alcohol testing.

**December 7, 2017** the Court granted the injunction with the reasoning:

*...if the Union is ultimately successful in the arbitration process [on the 2012 grievance], I do not accept that the impact on the privacy and dignity of the workers could be remedied. In the result, irreparable harm will result if the Injunction is not granted.*

*Put another way, if random drug and alcohol testing is to be implemented, it will be as a result of the decision of the new Arbitration Board and not judicially imposed, yet if the Injunction is denied, random drug and alcohol testing will have been implemented without the benefit of arbitration considering all of the evidence.*

The court decision on UNIFOR/Suncor appeal on random A&D testing **December 7, 2017** Decision can be seen at:

<https://www.canlii.org/en/ab/abqb/doc/2017/2017abqb752/2017abqb752.html>



Career Show at James Fowler High School  
Left to right: Doug Miller, Dan Olesen, Chris Ford

# Legislation Report

Terry Milot

As chairman of the Alberta Trade Contractors Coalition (ATCC), our first meeting of the year was held on January 11th, 2018 in Red Deer. Our Association remains very active and receiving recognition on a daily basis that we are on the right track in pursuing our initiatives. We are currently in hot pursuit of the following areas:



1. Prompt Payment in Alberta
2. Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) loss of employer's legal privilege in serious incidents
3. Labour Code – averaging agreements
4. Alberta Apprenticeship & Industry Training (AIT) – indenturing apprentices re-probationary period?
5. Change order process and overburden charge-out rates for overhead and profit.

As a result of our efforts, we were able to host an "Industry Engagement Session" on an "Expert Review of Prompt Payment and Adjudication on Federal Construction Contracts" in Calgary on March 16th, 2018. Bruce Reynolds provided a very informative presentation on what was required from the Ontario and Federal Government's perspective. His comments on how this is being received across the country were very refreshing and helped reinforce our position. With nearly 35 people in attendance and 6 from various government departments, it was clear that we still had more work to do to change some of the minds of other construction associations that feel a voluntary approach would suffice. Special thanks to Sheri, Eric and all of the Calgary contractors who attended and showed support for this important endeavour. With representation

from all of the ATCC associations present, the Government got a clear message of the importance of Prompt Payment in today's business cycle.

Our relationship with government remains strong and is evident in our continued collaboration with various groups. Working closely with the Alberta Energy Efficiency team we are continuing to assist with the energy rebate programs on the commercial, institutional, not for profit and now the industrial sector. By working together we can help streamline the effectiveness of the program and get maximum input from our contracting community. We truly appreciate the opportunity to work with individuals like D.M. Stoneman and his team to offer any feedback from all of our organizations within the ATCC and ECAA.

Working collaboratively with Energy Efficiency Alberta (EEA) and our Association, a meeting was held in Calgary on December 14th, 2017 to discuss the solar PV industry and how it could be utilized to build solar capacity in Alberta. This meeting resulted in a request from Jennifer D'Aoust of EEA to submit a proposal to provide a presentation on Introduction to the PV solar industry which could be presented across the province. With consultation with many of our associate and contractor members, we engaged the Electrical Industry Training Center of Alberta (EITCA) to develop the presentation. Consulting with the inspection associations and many other stakeholders we submitted a grant application for a solar road show across the Province. The grant was formally approved February 7th and we were about to proceed. Together with Joel Fundytus and the EITCA we have held sessions in Red Deer, Calgary, Fort McMurray, two locations in Edmonton and one in Lloydminster. We look forward to our next meetings in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge and Grande Prairie.

Upon completion we will analyze the evaluation forms and submit our report to Energy Efficiency Alberta. Working together with industry stakeholders and the government agency to enable electricians with the knowledge needed to install high quality regulatory compliant and safe systems in Alberta.

## Membership

Steve Warholik

Even though the economy is still slow, we are continuing to gain new members. Since our January meeting, we have added 11 Contractors, 5 Associates, 6 Journey Person Associates and one retired member.



Calgary and Edmonton Chapters hosted their annual Industry Nights in January. Unfortunately, a snow storm in Calgary forced many to stay away. But thank you to the 68 brave souls who were able to make it and enjoy the casino night. Thank you to the 23 Associate members in Edmonton who participated in the Table Top displays at Industry Night.

Your Provincial Membership Chair attended meetings in Calgary (February 8), Grande Prairie (February 15) and then off to Palm Springs for 3 weeks of needed vacation.

Thank you to Sheri and her staff: Camille; Christine; Dorothy and Tammy for their assistance.

If you would like any more information you can contact me at: 780.446.2350 or e-mail: grover12@telus.net



Solar Presentation Edmonton & Red Deer

## Open Shop Scott Hutton, Chair

A poll was conducted recently of Open Shop contractors. In the commercial market, this poll covered approximately 50 employers with approximately 1250 employees (Northern Alberta) and 39 employers with 1600 employees (Southern Alberta). It was good to see that for the most part these contractors are trying to maintain a reasonable wage and benefit package. The average hourly base rate for a journeyman electrician was down \$1.00 from June of 2017 to \$37.36 in Northern Alberta and down \$.40 to \$37.71 in Southern Alberta. In the industrial market there was a much smaller sample size, 10 employers and 460 employees. In this



market wages rose an average of \$3.36 to \$40.55. When asked about work force size, 34% expect to be hiring employees, an increase of 5% since June of 2017. Benefit plans remained constant with 99% of those responding continue to offer benefits and 33% offering RRSP plans.

It would seem that most contractors polled are sensing a little more confidence in the economy, but are not prepared to make any drastic changes. It is very rewarding to see that for the most part the contractors who responded to this poll are not in "a race to the bottom" and want to continue to provide a reasonable wage.

From what our firm as seen in the past months, the difference between the low bidder and second place is usually substantially more than what can be accomplished by a couple of dollars less per hour. Quite often the bottom line can be more positively supported by a satisfied work force.

## Professional Electrical Contractor Bob Maslanko, PEC

With spring now upon us I thought I would report on some of the progress we have made with the PECCC (Professional Electrical Contractor Course Consistency) project that we started almost two years ago. For those who do not know what this is it was an initiative started to review our 6 mandatory PEC Courses, for course consistency, content and to eliminate course content being taught over in several of the courses. The biggest reason was to update the material being taught and to standardize the courses by introducing a common set of drawings and specifications.



Mike Fleming took on the task and he will spend close to 450 hours when he is finished this task. He has sat though and evaluated each of the individual courses, reviewed their course contents and made recommendations where materials overlapped. He has standardized our course manuals and the table of contents. Course contents were updated by the individual course instructors who are the experts in their fields and we are pleased to announce that as of the beginning of the year we have started rolling out these improvements. I would also like to give out a special thank you to Christine Hryniw from our Provincial office who also worked very hard to ensure everything was ready for the roll out.

Last week Chris Reinert, PEC taught the first ever 3 day course that now has Computer Estimating combined with Assessing and Finalizing the tender. This course used the new standardized drawings and specifications as its basis. Students were introduced to basic computer estimating using Accubid

estimating software and I was pleased that I was able to address this 1st class to ask them firsthand what they thought of the idea and it seemed well received by all.

We are also pleased to announce the hiring of Barry Lawrence who has taken over as our new instructor for the Safety Principals Course. Barry is a Journeyman Electrician and the Director of his own company called Bastion Safety Solutions. Welcome Barry and I know he has lots of work as he is updating the materials for his first class which is coming up in late March in Calgary.

I have had the opportunity to sit in on two Marketing committee meetings since we last spoke and the PMelect meetings are still taking place where we will have an update for you all at the upcoming AGM in May.

Speaking of the AGM just a small reminder that the early bird deadline for registering for the ECAA Training Day is on March 31st. So if you are intending to attend please note the fees charged will be going up on April 1st. The date for the Training Day is May 25th at the Hotel MacDonald in Edmonton and there are a lot of very interesting topics and speakers so you don't want to miss it. Also if you are looking to attain your APD points for the year this is your best opportunity to do so.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Training Day and at our AGM as we officially celebrate the PEC's 25th Anniversary. Please come and celebrate our accomplishments.

In closing we will be looking to fill positions on our many PEC committees at our AGM. What better way to give back than to serve on one of the many committees we have, and our elections will be held at the AGM. Remember to remain a Professional one must stay current with the many changes happening in our Industry.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

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Vice President: Tim Tarita  
Treasurer: Terry Barnett  
Secretary: Tim Brundage  
Past President: Darrell Castor, PEC

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North West Brandon Thoma, PEC  
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Medicine Hat Vacant  
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Labour - Open Shop Scott Hutton

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Keven Lefebvre, PEC  
Darcy Teichroeb, PEC  
Bob Maslanko, PEC  
Susan Rockwood  
Hans Tiedemann

PEC Joe Davis  
Public Member Darcy Teichroeb, PEC  
Terry Barnett  
Safety Codes Council:  
Fire  
Electrical  
Ways & Means

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### New Contractors

Acme Electrical Services Ltd. (Edmonton)  
Ardent Electric (Lethbridge)  
C&J Electric Ltd. (Airdrie)  
EMWP Services Ltd. (Edmonton)  
JPW Contracting Ltd. (Calgary)  
Leading Electric Ltd. (Fort McMurray)  
Nano Electrics Inc. (Fort McMurray)  
Royal Energy & Electric Group Ltd. (Calgary)  
Solaris Electric (Calgary)  
Startech Services (Calgary)  
Valiant Electric Ltd. (St. Albert)

### New Associates

Edmonton Catholic School District (Edmonton)  
Hertz Equipment Rental (Edmonton)  
Lethbridge College (Lethbridge)  
LSW Lighting Ltd. (Edmonton)  
Sun Life/Universal Group & Life Benefits Ltd. (Edmonton)

### Journey Person Associates:

Travis Banack (Lethbridge)  
Sean Conlon (Carstairs)  
Trevor Dell (Ft. McMurray)  
Marius Hugo (Calgary)  
Dave Rutherford (Calgary)  
Clifford Yamuah (Edmonton)

### Retired

Garth Graham (Edmonton)

## CONGRATULATIONS NEW PROFESSIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS (PEC'S)

David Arkell, PEC #346

## THE CONTACTOR

The Contactor is the official publication of the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta. We welcome articles and paid advertisements.

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