



**ECAA**

Electrical Contractors  
Association of Alberta

# CONTACTOR

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

## JOIN US

CONVENTION 2019 - May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>

JASPER PARK LODGE, ALBERTA



Hosted by  
Tim & Karen Tarita

# President's Message

Greetings to everyone... Spring is in the air and the temperatures have warmed, for now. We Albertans know better than to think that this weather will last. We must endure the next couple of months expecting Mother Nature to throw us a few curveballs.

A Provincial election has been called and will take place on April 16, 2019. With so much diversity and confusion surrounding this election and all parties involved, this should prove interesting to say the least. The election hopefully brings with it a renewed confidence in our economy. So many oilfield and construction companies are waiting to see how this will play out before moving ahead with any projects. My suggestion to the reader is this: be educated, be aware of all platforms being presented, and make the best-informed decision that you can.



Tim Tarita

The ECAA continues to be an advocate for a better, stronger trade in Alberta. Our members have a total number of years' experience, both union and open shop, far surpassing that of other Associations in the Province. It's great to know that we can call on our vast membership to help get answers to problems or dilemma's we haven't encountered before.

Our Annual Convention, Training Day and AGM is fast approaching. Deadline for early-bird registration is March 29. If you haven't already registered, please do so. The ECAA is subsidizing this year's convention by \$120.00 for a single registration and \$240.00 for a couple's registration. We are able to do this through the assistance of sponsorships. Sponsorship opportunities are still available starting at \$100.00 and up. It is a great way to support the ECAA and to get your name out there. Thank you to the Associates and Contractors who have committed. Companies are listed on the ECAA website ([ecaa.ab.ca](http://ecaa.ab.ca)).

I will be attending various Chapter Meetings throughout the Province in the next couple of months and I sincerely look forward to seeing you. Looking forward to networking with our members at Convention 2019 in Jasper.

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."  
-Edward Everett Hale

Until next time,  
God bless and be Safe

## Chapter Reports

### Calgary

Andrew McGuire

The first 3 months of 2019 have been productive and enlightening. Our first meeting was held January 10 and we had over 60 members attend. The meeting sponsor for the night was Rob Little from Schneider Electric. The pre-presentation by Barry Lawrence provided an introduction to occupational hygiene. The meeting presenter was Twila Nicolson from Allstate Insurance. Twila improved our understanding of the insurance and savings available to ourselves and employees through Allstate. Along with the presenter, Rob Little, Doug Miller and Jeff Light took the podium and provided their reports. Rob is looking for Associate members to volunteer a small amount their time to be interviewed on the benefits of belonging to ECAA as an Associate member. Doug was also looking for volunteers for the upcoming RAP and Skilled Trade Fairs (thanks to those who volunteered). On January 12 the members that attended the annual Stampeder game were treated to a Roughneck lacrosse game. The Flames organization provided us with complimentary tickets as way to make up for the obstructed view from the Patio Zone at the Stamps game. The tickets were very appreciated, and we all had a great time.



We held our annual Industry night in February. The Casino night brought in a large crowd of contractors and Associates. The speakers' topics revolved around the benefit of membership and apprenticeship programs. Since that event, we have seen a significant increase in our member attendance at our monthly meetings. We attribute this to the quality speakers and variety of topics covered in our past meetings. We have welcomed several new members including Skywalker Electrical Systems, Robert Burnett PEC (Retired), PEC's Neill Ervick #361, Dale Frey #363 and Dwight Lucas # 364.

Our last Chapter meeting was held March 14. Our first presenter was Dave Hienstra from Optics Lighting, who spoke about the new NECB 2017 requirements. We also heard from John Knoll, PEC a Past President of the Edmonton Chapter and CEO of GetVigilant.ca, who spoke about Sustainable Electrical Construction Products and Methods.

Our next meeting will held on April 11, followed by Board elections on May 9th. ECAA Provincial Board members will be in attendance at the May 9th meeting. Hope to see you there.

# Central

## Darcy Teichroeb, PEC, CME

The Central Chapter held a meeting on Wednesday, March 20 where we welcomed a good turnout of members. This meeting was held immediately following the Red Deer scheduled code update training for the CEC 24th edition. The code update training was also very well attended by local Electrical Industry stakeholders.

The Central Chapter meeting started with great networking of the members with the appreciation of Trevor Hartley of Eecol Electric who sponsored our meeting. The membership was updated with current events and industry information by Tim Tarita, ECAA Provincial President and Jeff Light, PEC ECAA's Education Committee Chair.



We also enjoyed a great presentation on "Sustainable Electrical Construction Methods and Products" by John Knoll, PEC.

Door Prize winner of a complimentary PEC course was Karen Hutchison. Karen extended the complimentary certificate to Matthew Morris. The meeting evaluation draw recipient was Cameron Doram of Alberta Municipal Affairs.

I would like to thank all members for supporting the Central Chapter with their attendance and give a special thanks to Tim Tarita, ECAA Provincial President, Jeff Light, PEC, ECAA Education Chair, Sheri Mclean, CAE, ECAA Executive Director, Steve Warholik, ECAA Membership Chair, and John Knoll, PEC, our presenter, for traveling from out of town to join our Chapter meeting.

# Edmonton

## Jay Kuystermans, PEC

We're finally starting to see some nice weather around here, Spring is in the Air! We have had a busy few months here in Edmonton and there have been several events that have required some volunteer time. I want to thank everyone who was able to participate in our table top displays at our Industry night, attendees at the ECAA booth at the Careers/RAP Trade fair and the AEEA summit.

The Edmonton Chapter President's Ball was held on January 19, 2019 at the Chateau Lacombe hotel. We had a good turn out with great music by the Scoundrels. In attendance we had Honorable Amarjeet Sohi MP, Honorable Christina Gray, MLA Rod Loyola, MLA Jon Carson, and Edmonton City councillor Aaron Paquette join us.



New contractors: Morlock Hicks (Nathan Hicks), Panterra MTE Solutions (Joshua Breen), Yambar Electric, SolarNinjas Energy Solutions (Mike Thomas)

New Associate members: Wajax (Gordon Lloyd), Bastion Safety Services (Barry Lawrence), American Express Canada (Curtis Austin)

New Journey person Associates: Dan Wehinger, Matthew Scuir, Andre Lenz

I was able to attend the Alberta Energy Efficiency Alliance Summit in February. Keynote speakers were Honorable Amarjeet Sohi, MP and Honorable Shannon Phillips MLA.

ECAA was a Gold sponsor for the Summit and had a booth in the trade hall. This booth was attended by Jay Kuystermans PEC, Eric Fadden PEC and John Knoll PEC.

At the January 21 meeting we had The City of Edmonton, Epcor and The Inspections Group answering questions for our Chapter members. Sunlife Financial was the meeting sponsor and presented during the meeting as well. The presentation was on how to pay less corporate tax with the new CRA rules. Arlene Lauer-Krueger from Careers Next Generation spoke a few minutes updating Members on their program and future events. We had 84 attendees for pre-meeting and 72 for the Chapter meeting.

February 25, 2019, we hosted our Industry night, with table top displays and cocktails starting at 5:00, with the meeting beginning at 6:00. We had a number of meeting sponsors including Allstate Insurance, Edmonton Electric, Electrical Wholesalers (EWEL) and Herc Rentals. During the meeting we had a few members describe their involvement with the ECAA and the benefits of being ECAA members. Amanda Smith from Allstate Insurance presented for the Associate membership, Jason Kuziw from Chermik Communications and Edmonton chapter Vice-President presented for Contractor members and Jeff Light, PEC presented on the benefits of PEC membership. John Knoll, PEC was recently at the Electrical Inspectors conference and presented on his attendance there. Our guest speaker was Kathy Strobl from CIBC Wood Gundy and her presentation was called "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly about investing in Penny Stocks."

Barry Lawrence from Bastion Safety Solutions presented "Killing you Softly", an introduction to Occupational Hygiene as our pre-meeting presenter at the March 18 meeting. At the Chapter meeting John Knoll, PEC presented on Sustainable Electrical Construction Methods and Products. Thank you to Wesco (Ian Touw) the meeting sponsor.

The annual RAP Skilled Trades Fair at St. Joseph's High School was held on February 22 and the ECAA had a booth there. The volunteers for this booth were Shawn Bishop from Seletech, along with Brad Peesker and Lewis Lariviere from Chermik Communications.

The ECAA had a team in the CREC curling funspiel on March 1. On this team were Brent Connell, Eric Fadden, Shawn Bishop and Brad Peesker. They were the team that had the most fun there!

On March 18, I was invited to attend the Opening Ceremonies and Throne Speech at the Alberta Legislature by Jon Carson, MLA. It was a wonderful experience and I have the ECAA to thank for being able to attend. As "the voice of the electrical industry" it certainly shows that government is aware of our Association and what we do for the Province.

We are working on some social events to attract newer members. To accommodate younger members with families we are trying to make some events family friendly. I think these events are an additional benefit to Association members and as such I encourage coming out and participating whenever possible!

Thank you to Sheri, Christine, Camille, Dorothy, and Shannon for all your hard work in the office keeping this Association going strong!

The AGM and Convention coming up soon at the Jasper Park Lodge. Please remember to register and I look forward to seeing you there!

# Edmonton Chapter President's Ball



# Fort McMurray

## Tim Brundage

The month of March began with an average Province wide temperature of - 35 ° and here we are a few weeks later experiencing a fifty degree swing to the good! I think it is fair to say that we are a very unique, not to mention, a resilient bunch here in Alberta!

We have had two Chapter meetings this year with the first one on January 24, and the most recent on March 21. Both meetings were well-attended by Associates and Contractor members. Guest speakers included Barry Lawrence of Bastion Safety Services discussing the importance of Occupational Hygiene, and John Knoll, PEC did a presentation on LED lighting.

We were also very fortunate to have had Larry Cantelo, PEC travel up to Fort McMurray to facilitate an afternoon session which provided clarity on the recent changes to the CEC's Chapter 10 - Grounding. This session was a direct result of a conversation held at a Chapter meeting in November of 2018, where the Inspectors of the RMWB made mention of the many contractors in the region who were confused and struggling to understand the new methods of the code.



This is just another clear example of the value that is shared when we come together within the association as members, associates, inspectors and guests! There is certainly strength in numbers, and we can all benefit by being connected and communicating effectively with one another throughout the Province. We are very thankful for the active participation and interactions with all our members and partners and we look forward to continuing to work closely with everyone in the future.

I would once again, strongly encourage all Contractors whom are not yet members, to climb on board and join the ECAA. By doing so, you would not only strengthen your own opportunities within the Province and across Canada, but you would also strengthen our collective voice within the electrical industry. Your experience and your input would be a great asset to everyone in our community and you can certainly play a great role in the decisions and direction your association takes going forward. Together we are the Voice of the Electrical Industry in Alberta.

Thank you again to our Associate members for the sponsoring of our meetings. I would also like to thank Sheri McLean and her team for all their support as they continuously go above and beyond to bring success to every meeting and event! I would also like to thank the support of our new Provincial President Tim Tarita, Steve Warholik, Membership Chair and our entire Board. We are very fortunate to have so much experience and leadership within the Association.

# Lethbridge

## Tim Fehr

The Lethbridge Chapter enjoyed our first meeting for the winter season on January 9, 2019. Our meeting was well attended and a great success with refreshments sponsored by Eccol Electric. Our next Chapter meeting will be held on April 10, 2019 and I look forward to meeting up with everyone again as we head into the coming season.

Sheri McLean was unable to attend due to other obligations and, though dearly missed, in her absence, Kelly Gray did a great job of all the pre-meeting obligations to ensure Steve and I had a solid start. Steve Warholik, Membership chair, was in town the day before our meeting to give assistance in an effort to reach out to potential new contractors, inform them of the ECAA, its benefits to members and to make them aware of our upcoming meeting.

The Guest speaker line-up included a representative of Danatec Education Services with a presentation on the CSA Z462 updates. Their incredible passion and understanding of this aspect of industry is greatly appreciated and efforts are being made to schedule a training day for Lethbridge. More information on this will be published at a later date.

At the meeting a representative of the City of Lethbridge Inspection Authority announced an upcoming code information session being held for the City of Lethbridge. With the upcoming enforcement of the 2018 CEC, we appreciated the proactive measures to inform our contractors of what our local inspection authority will be watching for.

# North East

## Keith Urlacher

The North East Chapter had our Spring meeting on March 12. We had another great turn out for the meeting with 17 members in attendance. There was a presentation by FBC Tax Specialist, on the topic of Top Tax Tips for Electrical Businesses.



Every effort to work together to understand the changes our industry is realizing is mutually beneficial and will assist both parties moving forward.

The City of Lethbridge utilities was also present and introduced themselves to the membership again, making themselves available to help with any utility connection issues as efficiently as possible. It was mentioned that some changes will be introduced in the new year, and these will impact service connection process and procedures. With these changes, their commitment was to be as proactive as possible and ensure that contractors are aware of the changes and educated on the new procedures.

As the ECAA and its Lethbridge Chapter move into the Spring season, we look forward to the Convention and AGM in Jasper hosted by Tim & Karen Tarita. This event is always a great time filled with golf, fun, laughs and a bit of learning. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

As always, thank-you to the ECAA, and all the support staff, for your continued, and on-going, support of our Chapter.



We also had a presentation by John Knoll, PEC on Sustainable Electrical Construction Methods and Products. Lakeland College Vermillion mentioned that all their classes are

filled again which is great news for the college. On May 1, 2019 the ECAA and the North East Chapter will have a booth set up for the Try-a-Trade. We are looking for volunteers for the booth. I am looking forward to seeing all the students come through and to give them a little insight on the Electrical profession.

We had a special guest at our meeting - our Provincial President Tim Tarita - who travelled from Grande Prairie. The support of the Board of Provincial Directors is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank the Camille and Sheri for all their help throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Convention and Annual General Meetings in Jasper.

## North West

### Brandon Thoma, PEC

Spring has sprung. After the coldest February in decades in the Northwest we are now in a sunny above normal temperature. Run off and snow pack melt is happening quickly. But May long weekend hasn't happened yet I wouldn't hold my breath waiting for summer just yet.

On February 21 we held a Chapter meeting at the Pomeroy Hotel in Grande Prairie. Thank you to Eddy Brasseur and Doug Medori with Wesco for sponsoring the meeting. Pierre Trudel with FBC gave a presentation on Tax audit triggers. Lorne Gable with the City of Grande Prairie Inspections talked about service cables needing a bonding conductor after the service box, no exceptions. He also explained the definition of a service box. Lorne spoke on how surge suppression devices affect the system ground size, and directed contractors to reference the manufactures installation guide.



I give huge thanks to Lorne and the City of Grande Prairie for their participation at our meetings. They are an integral part of the success of North West Chapter.

I would also like to acknowledge Jason Bradshaw on obtaining his PEC certification this month. Congratulations Jason.

The time of year is here to register for the Training Day, Convention 2019 and the Annual General Meetings, May 30- June 1, where we will be acknowledging the hard work of Provincial President, Tim Tarita. Professional Electrical Contractors (PEC's) don't miss out on Training Day. It is the best way to accumulate your Annual Professional Development points with informative training.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Chapter meeting on April 25th 2019 at the Pomeroy Hotel in Grande Prairie, where Joe Davis, ECAA's Fire Sub Council representative will be presenting. Have a great Spring.

# Committee Reports

## Alberta Construction Safety Association

### Dave Hagen

On March 16, 2019 the ACSA held their AGM at the Delta hotel in Edmonton. This was the first meeting since the new bylaws were adopted in November of 2018. The Audited Financial statement was presented. The ACSA continues to remain very strong financially with revenue exceeding expenses by over \$2,000,000 last year. It was identified that part of the excess was due to some vacant staff positions that have yet to be filled. In 2018, the ACSA was awarded five creative sentencing funding from penalties levied as a result of workplace injury and fatality prosecutions.



The ACSA has worked with other Construction Safety Associations across Canada through the Federation of Construction Safety Associations to sign a National Agreement to make the NCSO (National Construction Safety Officer) a national designation. In Alberta some 14,000 NCSOs are required to pass a closed book exam to meet the new certification requirements. The ACSA will be posting a list of certified active NCSOs on their web site.

The updated audit tool is now available that meets the new Partnership Standard. Overall training is down 11% from 2017, this is expected due to the economic downturn in Alberta.

The ACSA holds 39% of all the Certificate of Recognition (COR) holders in Alberta with Energy Safety Canada being the next at 13%.

The Board has adopted a new three-year strategic plan for the ACSA. With the changes to OH&S and the upcoming election, the ACSA will review the plan to ensure it still meets requirements.

The new Board Chair was appointed, the 2019 chair is Brad Bent from CLAC. The 2019 Board of Directors was introduced, currently there are 7 vacation positions not filled by some Associations.

The Regional Safety Committees provided their reports and all committees have been very active throughout the year. This included activities such as: visiting schools, Steps for Life, NIOSH Week, Skills Canada and Day of Mourning ceremonies.

It was suggested the ACSA look at holding the AGM in conjunction with the ACSA conference to assist in reducing travel costs for employers who have employees participating on the Regional Safety Committees. The ACSA Conference is April 1 and 2 at the Shaw Conference Center in Edmonton.

The next Board Meeting is April 12, 2019 in Calgary. At this meeting elections for both Governance and HR Committee Chair and Finance and Risk Committee Chair will be held as per the new Bylaws.

Thank you for continuing to support the ACSA by attending training.

# Associate Liaison

## North

### Darrell Warholik, ABB

I hope everybody had a great start to the year and I think we are all glad that spring is just around the corner. We find the market in northern Alberta has slowed a bit because of the weather and economic climate. With some significant projects scheduled to go ahead this year and spring almost here, predictions are for a boost in the economy.

I would like to thank Jason Ponto, Amanda Smith and Dennis O'Neal for participating in the Associates videos. I would also like to thank Grant Ainsley for shooting the video's.



I have reached out to all my Northern Alberta counterparts and would like to thank them for their feedback.

If for any reason you need to reach me, you can contact me on: Cell: 780-970-7997 or email me at darrell.warholik@ca.abb.com

## South

### Robert Little, Schneider Electric

Spring is finally here and the cold will soon be a bad memory in Southern Alberta. We have had a slow start to 2019 and hope spring will bring the large number of budgeted jobs to the next step and put a shovel in the ground.



I would like to thank everyone who volunteered and participated in the ECAA Associates Videos as well as the Chapter Associates for their feedback. If you would like to participate in this marketing campaign, please contact Darrell Warholik (North) or myself. We are looking for additional participation.

# Canadian Electrical Contractors Association / NETCO

### Terry Milot

Good News! Prompt Payment Legislation will be included in the upcoming Federal Government's Budget Implementation Act. Annex 3 of the budget includes a list of legislative measures that will be introduced as part of the budget plan.

Here is the relevant section on Prompt Payment:

#### **Subject of the Measure Proposed Legislative Action Prompt Payments**

The Government proposes to introduce legislation that would ensure that payments flow down the construction supply chain promptly and to provide for an effective adjudicative mechanism when they do not, thus facilitating the orderly and timely building of federal construction projects on federal property.



There are also several other commitments for infrastructure that prompt payment will encourage. They are reflected in the attached press release and talking points.

*"The National Trade Contractors Coalition of Canada enthusiastically supports the 2019 federal budget which is laying the groundwork for a prompt payment system on all federal construction contracts. The government has listened to the concerns of contractors, suppliers, and tradespeople and is focused on making construction more efficient in Canada."*

#### **NETCO 2019 Training Conference (August 10 & 11, 2019, Vancouver, BC)**

• Registration is open! This year's conference will be in conjunction with the IBEW All Canadian Progress Meeting, which will commence on August 12th. NETCO is seeking sponsors for this year's conference. Please contact NETCO Executive Director Melissa Young at [Melissa.Young@netco.org](mailto:Melissa.Young@netco.org) to lock in your sponsorship now or visit the website to view sponsorship opportunities at <http://www.cvent.com/events/netco-2019-trainingconference/custom-19-192d791220134936b7f7519cebd9df6a.asp>

## Strategic Priorities

### Advocacy

The Federal Government announced in the 2018 Federal Budget an investment of \$225 million over four years, and \$75 million per year thereafter, in a new Future Skills initiative to address skills gaps in the job market and support lifelong learning and training throughout Canadians working lives. Future Skills includes two components:

1. A Future Skills Council that will provide advice on priorities for skills development to the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour; and
2. A Future Skills Centre that will be informed by the priorities identified by the Council and act as a research centre to develop, test and measure innovative approaches to skills development.

The Future Skills Council is a multi-stakeholder body, which includes 15 members from the public, private, labour and not-for-profit sectors. Two of these Council members are from Canada's labour movement:

- Mike Luff is a National Representative with the Canadian Labour Congress
- Lisa Langevin is an Assistant Business Manager with Local 213 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The Future Skills Council is conducting consultations. NETCO will provide responses on behalf of NETCO partners.

### Red Seal Program

- The Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA) sent correspondence to NETCO regarding the review of the Electric Motor Systems Technician program. This program has been under review for de-designation as a Red Seal trade since 2017. NETCO shared the correspondence with funding partners and requested feedback for discussion with the CCDA.

## Communications

### Bob Clarke

The ECAA continues to be The Voice of the Electrical Industry, actively engaged through several social media platforms raising awareness of our Association and the career and educational opportunities within our marketplace.

As a follow up to the very successful "Day in the Life of an Electrician" digital marketing campaign from 2018, a very well received second campaign was recently executed featuring our Associate Members.



Three videos were launched: Day in the Life of an Associate with Dennis O'Neil from Guillevin and Jason Ponto from EECOL; as well as Associate Benefits/Getting to Know your Associate with Amanda Smith from Allstate Insurance.

Thank you very much to Grant Ainsley for his fantastic work on these videos. Be sure to subscribe to ECAA's YouTube Channel where these videos can be viewed.

## Education

### Jeff Light, PEC

Hello to all and welcome to Spring. I thought Winter would never leave.

The second Education Committee meeting was held in Edmonton on February 25, 2019 at the Chateau Louis and via teleconference. We had open discussions on bringing on new courses such as a course on Z463 – Electrical Maintenance and underground service installations. Another suggestion was to revisit a session on Job Site Apps; we will reach out to the people that were originally asked to deliver the course and see if they would still be interested. As always please pass suggestions for courses onto Christine at the ECAA office. I would like to remind everyone to review the on-line courses offered by the Association; an efficient way to provide training to your staff and crews.



The PEC mentoring program is gaining some traction. We currently have two PEC/electrical contractors being mentored and looking to add more. If being a mentor is of interest to you, please send your name into Christine at the ECAA office. The PEC Marketing committee is currently looking at updating the mentor/mentee application form so stay tuned.

The next Education Committee meeting will be held June 1 after the AGM's in Jasper. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Convention, Training Day and AGM's at the Jasper Park Lodge.

Pat Barnes had asked to find a replacement to instruct the Basic Electrical Estimating (BEE) course. After talking with Pat and sitting in on the course held in February, I have taken on the role of instructing this course. I would like to thank Pat for his efforts over the past years in providing this worthwhile course to the ECAA. This is a great course to take and especially for someone in your company that you may be considering adding to your estimating team. The course is based on the 6080 project that is common to all six mandatory PEC courses and is an awesome pre-requisite for a PEC student.



# Fire Sub-Council

## Joe Davis

My last meeting was January 24 here in Edmonton at the Alberta Municipal Affairs (AMA) office. Since this meeting there has been some important news released regarding the new Fire and Building codes. There is also an announcement in regard to the code books being free. Here are the announcements directly from the government.



In support of greater harmonization to the National Codes, both the Alberta Building and Fire codes have also been renamed.

The Building Code Regulation adopts two codes:

- **National Building Code – 2019 Alberta Edition**

This Code provides the minimum safety standards for the design and construction of new buildings and energy efficiency in construction for new housing and small buildings.

- **National Energy Code for Buildings – 2017 Edition -**

This Code provides the minimum requirements for energy efficiency in construction for new buildings other than housing and small buildings.

The Fire Code Regulation adopts:

- **National Fire Code – 2019 Alberta Edition -**

This Code provides minimum fire safety requirements for buildings, structures and areas where hazardous materials are used, and addresses fire protection and fire prevention in the ongoing operation of buildings and facilities. This Code also provides for minimum safety standards for storage tank fuel systems.

### New Codes Coming into Effect on April 1, 2019

The 2019 editions of the Alberta Building Code and Alberta Fire Code based on the 2015 editions of the National Building Code and National Fire Code were adopted in February 2019 by Provincial regulation. Also adopted by Regulation is the 2017 edition of the National Energy Code for Buildings (NECB).

The new Codes come into effect on April 1, 2019 and there is a transition period to facilitate transition to the new Codes from the previous Codes.

## Information on Purchasing the Codes and Code Highlights

The **National Building and National Fire Codes – 2019 Alberta Editions** are not yet available for purchase. Once they become available, they can be purchased from the National Research Council.

The **National Energy Code for Buildings – 2017 Edition** is available for purchase from the National Research Council, both online and in hard copy. Follow this link for purchase information

[www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/publications](http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/publications).

Mandatory code update training is not required for updates to the 2019 Alberta editions of the National Building Code and National Fire Code or to the 2017 edition of the National Energy Code for Buildings.

An overview of key Code updates is at the National Research Council site at:

[www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/solutions/advisory/codes\\_centre/technical\\_changes\\_2015.html](http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/solutions/advisory/codes_centre/technical_changes_2015.html)

National Research Council online video and handbooks on the proposed code changes are available at: [www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/solutions/advisory/codes\\_centre/code\\_seminars.html](http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/solutions/advisory/codes_centre/code_seminars.html)

A new power point presentation for changes in Building and Energy Codes is available on the Municipal Affairs site at: [www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/CP\\_Energy\\_Codes\\_Information](http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/CP_Energy_Codes_Information)

Additional Code information sessions and guidance documents including Alberta specific updates will be provided by Municipal Affairs over the coming months.

### Information on Free Code Books

Starting in Spring 2019, the National Research Council (NRC) will offer free online access and free downloadable editions to the National Building Code, the National Fire Code, the National Plumbing Code, and the National Energy Code for Buildings, as well as the Provincial Codes published by NRC, including the Alberta editions of these Codes. Paper copies of the Codes, along with other supporting documents including the Guides, will be offered at a reduced cost. Due to these changes, longer term subscriptions are not currently available. The links in this email will take you to the NRC site for more information.

**NRC will announce the date when the Codes are freely available, which is anticipated in Spring 2019.** The Alberta fire, building and energy efficiency codes do not come into force until April 1, 2019 and will not be freely available at least until April 1st, or possibly later subject to NRC's readiness to launch the free codes online. There will be no enforcement of Alberta Codes until the Codes are actually available. Code users are encouraged to postpone Code purchases of the Alberta and National Building, Plumbing, Fire and Energy Efficiency Codes until they are freely available from the NRC site.

# Legislation

Terry Milot

With the upcoming election on April 16, 2019 in Alberta, we find ourselves once again in uncharted territories. Over the past four years, we have been expressing our concerns to all the political parties and other construction associations. While we did not receive the outcome, we wished for regarding prompt payment legislation, we did change the minds of the Alberta Construction Association (ACA) and are pleased to see that it is now one of their top priorities in this election. We have been invited by the Service Alberta Ministry of the Government to participate in a stakeholder's review of both the Prompt Payment and Lean Act.



The Alberta Trade Contractors Coalition has worked as a unified group and is finally receiving some recognition and acknowledgement from all the political parties. We support the ACA position and will work with them on their current priorities of Regulations, Prompt Payment, Skills Development, and the Community Benefits Agreement. We are excited to be working with Bild Alberta on their priorities of addressing mortgage rules to support homeownership, creating an affordability council, having homeowners drive energy priorities and encouraging small and mid-sized businesses. While supporting our relationships, we continue to work with Alberta Energy Efficiency and the Government to ensure maximum usage of the carbon tax dollars collected. Going forward, we hope to be consulted before cancellation of programs so we can continue to provide opportunities for our members.

# Membership

Steve Warholik

In January, your Membership chair attended the Edmonton Chapter President's Ball, an enjoyable evening. Nice to catch up with some old friends. Courtesy calls were made to members who, due to the economic climate, were not sure if they were renewing their ECAA membership this year. After reminding them of the benefits of being part of the ECAA I was able to change their minds.



I attended the Edmonton Chapter meeting on January 21 and Fort McMurray on January 24. Both meetings had good attendance. Thank you for the continuing support of our meeting sponsors. I came back from Palm Springs earlier so I could attend Central Chapter meeting in Red Deer (March 20) and Fort McMurray (March 21). It was a pleasure to travel with Tim Tarita our Provincial President and Sheri McLean.

Thank you to Sheri and her staff: Camille; Christine; Dorothy and Shannon for their assistance. If you would like any more information you can contact me at: 780.446.2350 or e-mail grover12@telus.net.

# Professional Electrical Contractor

Bob Maslanko, PEC

I hope everyone stayed warm during the extreme cold weather that we had since the end of January. So nice Spring is finally here.

Registrations are starting to come into the Provincial office for the upcoming ECAA Training Day which will be taking place in beautiful Jasper at the Jasper Park Lodge on May 31. Early bird registration is March 29 so if you are planning to attend make sure to get your registration in soon to take advantage of the early bird special pricing. For our PEC members this is the best way to earn your Annual Professional Development (APD) points for year and a chance to be able to express yourself at our PEC Annual General Meeting which will take place the following morning at 8:00 AM.

Jeff Light and his ECAA Education Committee recently held a meeting. They are still looking for volunteers for the mentorship program. If you know someone who would like to give back and offer assistance to a new contractor or an Associate member, please get in touch with Jeff.



Also contact Jeff if you are some looking for some assistance from one of our volunteer mentors. Our Association would like to thank those mentors who have already offered their services as mentors and we look forward to many more of you who might like to join us.

The Code update courses are continuing so if you are an active Master/PEC in this Province please note that you need to attend and pass an approved CEC Code updating course as the 2018 CEC Code has been adopted by the Province as of February 01, 2019. For a full list of dates and locations of all of the ECAA/PEC courses that are being offered please go to [www.ecaa.ab.ca](http://www.ecaa.ab.ca) and check them out. The course dates listed there are to the end of 2019 so remember to register early to avoid the disappointment of not getting in when you want to.

Town Hall meetings have been scheduled in both Calgary (Wednesday, May 8, Best Western Port of Call) and Edmonton (Wednesday, May 15, Chateau Louis Conference Center). Light supper will be served at 5:30 so any Regulatory member (PEC, Student, CME or RME) attending is asked to please RSVP with the ECAA Provincial office. Purpose of the meeting is to discuss the industry-required Subject Matter Expert (SME), as well as requested additional agenda items.

Looking forward to networking with our members in Jasper.

# JOE'S CODES

This month I would like to bring your attention to Standata 14-FCI-006 / Existing Fire Alarm Systems. This Standata was a joint Standata between the fire and electrical sub councils. I would like to showcase the qualified persons portion of this Standata. Please review the chart below as it clearly speaks out who can work on fire alarm systems and what scopes that they can complete. The full Standata can be found here:

<http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/documents/14-FCI-006-ExistingFireAlarmSystems.pdf>

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to identify requirements where a building fire alarm system, regardless of age, requires inspection, testing, maintenance, and installation of devices or other equipment (e.g. maglocks) in order to provide or maintain an expected level of protection for occupants. In addition, this bulletin will define who is able to inspect, test, maintain and install fire alarm systems.

The following chart shows the work which an electrician or fire alarm technician can complete:

Work Acceptable Under the Electrician Trade Regulation and the Alberta Fire Code 2014

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE OF FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS		
	ELECTRICIAN	TECHNICIAN
<b>Installation</b>	✓	✗
<b>Inspection</b>	✓	✓
<b>Testing</b>	✓	✓
<b>Maintenance</b>	✓ (1)	✓ (1)
<b>Additions / Renovations</b>	✓	✗
<b>Audit System (under AFC 6.3.1.6.)</b>	✗ (2)	✗ (2)

(1) Certified electricians and technicians must be qualified under the Alberta Fire Code to perform maintenance on fire alarm systems.

(2) Certified electricians and technicians qualified as per the Alberta Fire Code , may perform an audit where professional engineering involvement is not required as per the Alberta Building Code.

All additions or modifications to a fire alarm system must be reviewed and accepted by the AHJ (Building). Permits are often required for modifications and additions to the fire alarm system.

The Safety Codes Act – Permit Regulation sets out the requirements for permits under both the building and electrical disciplines. The local AHJ must be contacted prior to any work being conducted on any fire alarm system.

Fire alarm's are to be verified in accordance with CAN/ULC S537 Verification of Fire Alarm Systems.

Note: Professional engineering involvement is necessary for the upgrading or modification of existing fire alarm systems where the size and occupancy of the building under the ABC 2014 determines professional involvement. Professional engineering involvement may include as little as preparing a scope of work for the building alarm system and a final verification after installation.

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## 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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