

# ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INC.



Construction House, 1939 Elphinstone Street, Regina Saskatchewan, S4T 3N3

AUGUST 2004

## President's Message

~ By Glen Gerow

The Association had a very busy summer with the Student Recruitment Program, Bill 9 and the development of our webpage. The Association continues to advocate for its members to create an environment which ensures its members are well represented in the electrical industry.

We would like to advise the new members that their membership with the Association also gives them the benefits of membership with the Canadian Electrical Contractor's Association ([www.ceca.org](http://www.ceca.org)) including access to publications on electrical design, management, codes and standards, safety, career awareness, new business sectors, organizational development and productivity enhancement.

In May, the Association was advised of the government's proposed changes to *The Electrical Inspection Act*. Bill 9, already in its second reading, had not been previously raised with the Association to discuss the issues surrounding the proposed amendments. The Association has requested that the government consult and discuss the proposed amendments to the Act before proceeding to the final reading and passage of Bill 9.

Also in the spring, the Association worked with Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology and eleven students in the Student Recruitment Program. The Program was a huge success with all students completing the program and seven currently working in the electrical field. We would like to thank the Electrical Contractor's for supporting these seven students. If any members wish to support the remaining four students, please contact the Association.

In the Fall, the Association is meeting with Al Douglas from the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission to discuss a pilot program addressing contractor compliance and non-compliance issues. Look for details in our next newsletter.

Finally, the Association is pleased to announce our webpage ([www.ecas.ca](http://www.ecas.ca)) is now up and running. We encourage all members to view it and if there are any suggestions for changes, additions or improvements, please contact the Association. Also, if you would like a link to your company's webpage, email the information to the Association and it will be added.

In closing, the Association wishes to advise its' members that we are here to support them and, if requested, we will assist any members with problems they encounter.

### ECAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2004

- President Glen Gerow, Humboldt Electric Ltd.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Ken Pickering, Globe Elite Electrical
- Treasurer: Rob Istace, Alliance Energy Ltd.
- Past President: Wayne Kirby, Kirby Electric Ltd.
- Executive Director: Michael Fougere

### ECAS DIRECTORS 2004

- Len Bykowy, Bridge City Electric Inc.
- Allan Gibb, Amtec Electric Ltd.
- Bryan Leverick, Alliance Energy Ltd.
- Bob Lightfoot, Aim Electric Ltd.
- John Kirby, Kirby Electric Ltd.
- Fred Hodel, Fred Hodel Electric Ltd.

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## CECA

As a member of the ECA Saskatchewan you are automatically a member of CECA and through CECA a member of NECA. Therefore, you are able to order any of the CECA, or NECA publications at member pricing. A complete list is on the web site at [www.ceca.org](http://www.ceca.org). You can also attend the NECA conference as a member.

The national CECA conference wrapped up last week in PEI. It was very informative and provided ample opportunity for the delegates to meet and mix with each other and the sponsors.

Jerald Rounds Ph.D., P.E. is a consultant to NECA and presented an overview of the NECA supervision course. ECA Ontario hosted a train the trainer session for their member ECAs last fall and they are now training electrical supervisors throughout the province. The course was modified for the Canadian laws and the Ontario labour legislation. There are three modules delivered separately over a Friday afternoon, all day Saturday, and then evenings the following Monday to Thursday. The modules build on each other. Several other trade associations purchased the course from NECA to offer to their contractors, which is a testament to the quality of the courses. ECA Alberta is investigating offering a train the trainer course for western Canada and will provide the details in the near future.

Another consultant to NECA, Awad Hanna Ph.D., P.E., presented a portion of his NECA publications on change orders and their cumulative effect on productivity and impact on the costs of the project. This topic is very important to all contractors as they try to educate their customers to the costs of change orders. ECA Toronto has published a guide for change orders and a pricing outline. CECA would like to publish a national standard document dealing with the cost implications of change orders and Awad is preparing his proposal for this project. This item will be discussed at the next board meeting.

The next CECA national conference will be held in Jasper on June 15-19, 2005 and is hosted by the ECA of Alberta. This is an excellent opportunity to meet and learn with your counterparts from all across Canada.

## Saskatchewan's Electrical Contractors Seek Consultations on Amendments to *The Electrical Inspection Act*

The Electrical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan is opposed to proposed amendments to Bill 9 *The Electrical Inspections Act*, now before the Legislature. The ECAS is seeking consultation before the Act passes the Legislature. While the Legislature has adjourned until the fall, the Act remains at second reading stage.

The Association has a number of concerns about the amendments being proposed by the Government. The concerns over amendments to the Act include:

- Electrical inspectors should not hold an electrical contractor's license. Conducting work while holding the office of inspector can provide instances where there could be a real or perceived conflict of interest. Having regulators compete for business is unfair and could provide instances where conflicts could arise, such as when another inspector looks at another inspector's work.
- The addition of "vicarious liability" is onerous and unnecessary. It is not clear what problem is the government trying to fix. If the government approached the association to discuss this issue of policing infractions, ECAS would have been happy to offer solutions.
- The Association notes that electrical inspectors, who can obtain a license to work in the industry, at any time, can order a review of any electrician's financial statements. This is unfair and can create instances of real or perceived conflicts of interest. The solution would be to keep separate the function of inspector and electrical license holders.
- The ECAS, which represents the electrical contractors across the province, strongly believes the province-wide electrical inspection function should be removed from SaskPower and made an independent body as has happened in Ontario.

The Association has called on the government to allow for more consultations on the proposed amendments to the Act before proceeding to final reading and passage of Bill 9.

The ECAS is pleased the government did not proceed with this Act during the recent sitting of the Legislature. Full and comprehensive consultations with the association are critical before any amendments to the Act are made.