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February 16, 2004

The Honourable Jim Watson
Minister of Consumer and Business Services
250 Yonge St., Eaton Tower, 35th Floor
Toronto, ON M5B 2N5
FAX: 416 326-8520

Dear Minister:

I am writing on behalf of the Ontario Electrical League (OEL) and the Industry Stakeholder Committee on Provincial Licensing. I would like to bring an outstanding issue of importance to your attention and seek your assistance in resolving it.

We are seeking your support to achieve our goal of an improved province-wide licensing system for electrical contractors.

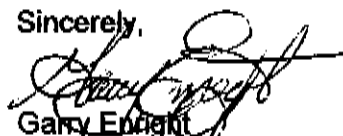
This licensing system will serve to:

- Enhance public and worker safety;**
- Improve consumer protection;**
- Assist government in capturing underground revenue losses;**
- and**
- Provide a level playing field for electrical contractors.**

Our end objective is to realize our goal of having a system for province-wide licensing and certification of electrical contractors and electricians.

In view of the high level of support for this proposal and the benefits to the people of Ontario in terms of consumer protection, and enhanced worker and public safety we are seeking your support in achieving our goal this spring by expediting the approval process for this proposal.

Sincerely,


Gary Enright
President

Encl.: Stakeholder Backgrounder
Cc: Dave Mason, ECAO
Eryl Roberts, ECAO
Peter Marcucci, ESA

**PAGE TWO: The Hon. Jim Watson
Minister of Consumer and Business Services
FAX: 416 326-8520**

**The Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario (ECAO)
170 Attwell Drive, Suite 460
Toronto, Ontario, M9W 5Z5
Telephone: (416) 675-3226**

The Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario has a membership of approximately 1000 electrical contracting firms, the majority of whom are small to medium sized family owned and operated businesses. The contractors employ more than 15,000 electricians, apprentices and support staff who generate in excess of \$2 billion worth of electrical, utility and communications construction work annually.

Through its Electrical Contractors Registration Agency (ECRA), the ECAO provides services supporting the current electrical contractor licensing system and acts as Secretary to the Reciprocal Recognition Committee of municipalities who license contractors to the ECRA standard. The Electrical Safety Authority and the Ontario Electrical League are partners with ECAO in the operation of ECRA.

**The Ontario Electrical League (OEL)
17665 Leslie Street, Unit 31
Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 3E3
Canada
Telephone: (416) 495-0052**

The Ontario Electrical League is a non-profit, provincial organization, dedicated to 30 Chapters throughout Ontario, with over 2,000 members from the electrical industry. The OEL represents over 500 Contractor Companies employing over 3000 Electricians. Its mission is to "To promote and strengthen the electrical industry in Ontario. "

League members include Electrical Contractors, Maintenance Electricians, Municipal Utilities, Ontario Power Generation, Hydro One, Electrical Safety Authority, Electrical Distributors, Manufacturers, Manufacturer Representatives, Consulting Engineers and Educators.

The League's role is to communicate, educate and promote Ontario's electrical industry through Chapter meetings, the "Dialogue" Magazine, conferences, seminars, promotional programs and community activities.

**Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)
155A Matheson Blvd West, Suite 200
Mississauga, Ontario, L5R 3L5
Telephone: (905) 712-5361**

The Electrical Safety Authority is a financially self-sustaining not-for-profit safety business accountable to a Board of Directors and operating under legislation governed by the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services. ESA has been given authority to work with the public to prevent electrical accidents, injuries and deaths as part of Ontario Regulation 89/99.

ESA's primary responsibility includes enforcement of the Electricity Act, 1998 and Regulations including the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, Ontario Regulation 10/02. ESA employs close to 200 electrical inspectors who perform wiring, general and product approval inspections, and provide Ontario Electrical Safety Code advice and information. Inspection services are supported and enhanced by technical advisors, a Customer Service Centre, and a dedicated Programs Division. ESA continues to offer traditional inspection services, and regularly explores new approaches to regulation, products, and services that can result in increased public electrical safety where we live, work, and play in Ontario.