



## **Contractor in Thunder Bay Convicted and Fined \$3,750 for Doing Electrical Work without Licence**

*Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) reminds Ontarians to check credentials when hiring someone to do electrical work to avoid hazards and costly repairs*

**Mississauga, ON** – Nov.13, 2014. A contractor was convicted in a Thunder Bay, Ontario court on Oct.31, 2014 on a charge relating to performing electrical work illegally.

Gino Macchi was found guilty on one count of performing electrical work without an electrical contractor's licence. The court imposed a total fine of \$3,750 for the violation. All fines are set and collected by the Ontario courts.

A homeowner hired Macchi to replace an electrical panel. Macchi had the homeowner take out the electrical permit in their name for the panel change. As part of a routine inspection, an ESA inspector witnessed Macchi working on the panel change and recognized him as being an unlicensed contractor. Macchi had been previously warned by ESA investigators in 2009 that his actions -- doing electrical work without an electrical contractor's licence – were illegal. As a result, the homeowner had to hire a licensed electrical contractor (LEC) to complete the panel change and ensure the work was done to Code.

“Unfortunately this homeowner took out the permit on behalf of the unlicensed contractor. Homeowners don't realize that the unlicensed person will in many cases make errors that will not only be costly to fix, but more importantly could also cause serious injury from a shock or cause a fire that could destroy the home,” said Normand Breton, Registrar and Director of Contractor Licensing and Powerline Safety at ESA. “Hiring an LEC helps homeowners avoid major safety issues, extra cost and the risk that home insurance won't cover a claim.”

“Consumers are reminded when considering hiring someone to do electrical work to follow ‘the three C's’: **check** to ensure the contractor holds a valid ECRA/ESA electrical contractor licence (you can search the database at [www.esasafe.com](http://www.esasafe.com)); **confirm** that they are arranging the appropriate inspections from ESA; and **call** ESA at 1-877-ESA-SAFE (1-877-372-7233) if you suspect someone is misrepresenting themselves,” added Breton. “And lastly, don't settle the final bill until you have the Certificate of Inspection in hand.”

Hiring an ECRA/ESA licensed electrical contractor ensures that the company you have hired:

- is fully insured
- uses qualified electricians to perform the electrical work you require
- will arrange for permits with the ESA
- can deliver an ESA Certificate of Inspection

### **About the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)**

The Electrical Safety Authority's (ESA) role is to enhance public electrical safety in Ontario. As an administrative authority acting on behalf of the Government of Ontario, ESA is responsible for administering specific regulations related to the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, the licensing of Electrical Contractors and Master Electricians, electricity distribution system safety, and electrical product safety. ESA works extensively with stakeholders throughout the province on education, training and promotion to foster electrical safety across the province. More

information on the Electrical Safety Authority can be found at [www.esasafe.com](http://www.esasafe.com), through  
Twitter @HomeandSafety and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ElectricalSafetyAuthority](https://www.facebook.com/ElectricalSafetyAuthority)

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