

# KEEPING REMOTE COMMUNITIES SAFE IN MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT



Conseil des Services du District de  
**Manitoulin-Sudbury**  
District Services Board

## PROTECTION WITH AGE

Faced with aging infrastructure, managing constant electrical needs is a critical infrastructure responsibility for the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB). The buildings – including social housing and ambulance buildings – across remote locations in Northern Ontario require reliable and predictable electrical support. To make sure these buildings remain safe for tenants, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB has partnered with the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) through the Continuous Safety Services (CSS) Program.

### EXPANDING CONFIDENCE ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Patrick Wittmann, Supervisor of Infrastructure and Asset Management at the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, says the CSS program has helped maintain his confidence in electrical maintenance across the District. While servicing remote areas, there are not many options when it comes to Licensed Electrical Contractors (LEC). For example, it may require getting LEC's to drive 200 kilometers between properties! It can be hard to find the right contractor for the job given the remote nature of the properties, which span a 45,000 square kilometer district. But according to Wittmann, the peace of mind of using LECs and being covered under CSS is invaluable.

### CONTINUOUS SAFETY SERVICES (CSS) PROGRAM

CSS offers customers a full range of customized services designed to help maximize electrical safety in facilities, and supports businesses in Ontario in complying with the requirements of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code. Rather than taking out a separate permit for each electrical job, CSS clients log all electrical work conducted and CSS Inspectors review that work on an audited basis. This streamlines the electrical review process. CSS clients also benefit from information and guidance on electrical safety and Code issues from a dedicated electrical inspector backed by a team of technical experts.

The CSS program covers 39 social housing and ambulance buildings in Northern Ontario. With this peace of mind, Wittmann is never left to question whether or not a project, even something as simple as fixing a circuit in a tenant's unit, will be completed to code.

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE IS A GUARANTEE

There are two distinct benefits for working under the CSS program for Wittmann and the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB. The first is tenant safety. An ESA inspector identifies electrical hazards in a unit and then an LEC makes the appropriate fixes. Every time this is done, it creates a safer environment for tenants. Through ongoing inspections, LECs also spend time raising awareness and educating tenants on basic electrical home safety which helps the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB equip their tenants to maintain electrical safety in their apartments.



The second is quality control and assurance. While the electricians may be certified, having confirmed ESA inspections ensures that they are held accountable and the work is done safely and to code. Accountability and safety are top of mind for both the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB and ESA.

**“There’s no electrical fire that would be cheaper than having a safe building.”**

## KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON AND THE DOORS OPEN

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB has a mandate to provide safe and reliable housing while meeting the ongoing needs of a broad mix of tenants. With the help of ESA and the CSS program, Wittmann is equipped to provide exactly that and more. Wittmann feels strongly that by ensuring the electrical safety of the buildings, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is ensuring that tenants are being housed in a safe environment. And although the CSS program does come at a cost, he believes all property managers should budget for it.

