



**ECRA Advisory Council Meeting**  
 Minutes of Meeting  
 June 12, 2018

**ECRA Advisory Council Members**

Larry Allison	ESA Consumer Advisory Council
Cameron Hann	Electrical Contractors (OEL)
Joe Kurpe	Electrical Contractors (ECAO)
Larry Shaver	Electrical Contractors (ECAO)
Brian Smith	Electrical Safety Authority
Catherine Taylor	Community At Large
Debra Mattina	Municipalities
Leo Grellette	Electrical Safety Authority
Steve Del Guidice	Electrical Contractors (OEL)

**ECRA Advisory Council Members - Absent**

Sean Bell	Utility Contractor Association

**ESA Staff**

Normand Breton	
Farrah Bourre	
Shana Hole	
Tracy Durant	
Kathryn Chopp	
Scott Eason	

**Guests**

Mary Beth Fazzari	MGCS

### 1 Notice & Quorum

- The meeting had quorum

### 2 Minutes of ECRA Meeting

The following motion was carried:

**Motion: To accept the minutes of the February 13, 2018 meeting with the change from ECAO to UCAO on item #4 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point**

**Motioned by:** Cameron Hann

**Second:** Catherine Taylor

**Motion carried.**

### 3 Review of open action items

- Action Item 2018-01-01 will be discussed with item 7 on the agenda – New exam platform demonstration
- Action Item 2018-01-02 will be discussed with item 8 on the agenda – Removing references to Legislation from the Master Exam questions

### 4 Facilitated Brainstorming Session: Licensing – The Next Five Years Background Information (Normand Breton and Farrah Bourre)

- Background Information was provided to ECRA about ESA and the purpose of the facilitated session
- Licensing objectives were discussed
  - o The General Public will realize greater electrical safety and consumer protection;
  - o The electrical industry will realize improved worker competency, labor mobility and a fair more competitive industry;
  - o The government will realize a reduction in the underground economy;
  - o Reduce red tape and Regulatory Costs;
  - o Public expectation of greater transparency
- Major themes like continuing education, greater transparency, and the impact of innovation and changes to technology were highlighted
- A high level overview or [Risk Based Oversight \(RBO\)](#) was provided
- Licensed Electrical Contractor (LEC) survey results gave some interesting results
  - o Almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of LECs have no affiliation with any industry association (e.g. ECAO and OEL)
  - o The vast majority of respondents had 10+ years experience and will be looking to retire in the next 10-20 years
  - o Most work undertaken by Licence Holders is related to renovations of residential or commercial/industrial projects
- A brief overview of the 5 Ontario Consumer segments (Sensible Suburbanites, Eager Urbanites, Electric Cowboys, Weekend DIT-ers and Lawful Home Keepers) was given

**5 Facilitated Brainstorming Session: Licensing – The Next Five Years** (Jodi Shanoff and Nicole Pageot – Envirionics)

- The Key Themes from the facilitated session, in priority order, are:
  - o Consumer protection
  - o Improved worker competency
  - o Increased compliance (discipline/enforcement) with reg 570/05
  - o ESA agility and adaptability
  - o Level playing field (LECs)
  - o Underground economy
  - o Fair, more competitive industry
  - o Deregulation
  - o Labour mobility

**6 MEC Membership** (Normand Breton)

- MEC Terms that have expired: Fred Black and Rick Ball
- Nansy Hanna has stepped down from the MEC and has suggested that Ray Yousef be her replacement on the committee
- Steve Del Guidice has decided to step down from the MEC after being appointed to ECRA.
- The Ontario Electrical League (OEL) has put forward Len Oosterhof as their representative on the MEC
- ECRA noted that Steve Del Guidice was the Vice-Chair of the MEC and asked the MEC to elect a new Vice-Chair at the next meeting

**Motion:** To renew Fred Black for another 3 year term that began when his previous term expired on December 2, 2017

**Motioned by:** Larry Shaver

**Second:** Debra Mattina

Motion Carried

**Motion:** To renew Rick Ball for another 3 year term that began when his previous term expired on January 28, 2018

**Motioned by:** Brian Smith

**Second:** Larry Shaver

Motion Carried

**Motion:** To accept Ray Yousef as a replacement for one of the 2 ESA representative positions on the MEC. Term to begin June 12, 2018

**Motioned by:** Brian Smith

**Second:** Catherine Taylor

Motion Carried

**Motion:** To accept Len Oosterhof as the OEL representative on the MEC. Term to begin June 12, 2018

**Motioned by:** Cameron Hann

**Second:** Brian Smith

Motion Carried

### 7 **2017 Licence Holder Meeting Survey Results and 2018 Licence Holder Meeting Preparation** (Farrah Bourre)

- The majority of attendees at the 2017 Licence Holder Meetings found them valuable and informative
- The topics of most interest were the Q&A session, compliance and convictions, and new code requirements
- $\frac{3}{4}$  or more of the attendees were not affiliated with any contractor association
- Some of the topics to be discussed at the 2018 Licence Holder Meeting were shared

### 8 **Public Accountability Survey Results** (Kathryn Chopp)

- An overview of the [Public Accountability Survey](#) results was provided
- Key Takeaways
  - o ESA Accountability Index is on the rise. Overall, Accountability Index Score has trended upward since 2015 from 7.9 to 8.2 out of 10. Largest increases among LECs & MEs and Industry Stakeholders.
  - o Increase is largely driven by a shift in intensity. Stakeholders who “strongly agree” with how the ESA performs on various measures of accountability has increased since 2015.
  - o There is no “one size fits all” approach to accountability. Industry and LDC stakeholders are more focused on outcomes, and evaluate the ESA within the context of the broader electricity sector. For homeowners and LECs & MEs, impressions of the ESA are driven by a balance of access, practice and outcomes.
  - o Service and value delivered drive favourability across stakeholder groups. In light of their differences, stakeholder groups are receptive to good service and value. This is the ribbon that ties each group together.

**9 LEC Campaign Results (Kathryn Chopp)**

- The fiscal year 2018 objectives were reviewed and the results shared



- The fiscal year 2019 is moving from Power Your Reno (PYR) to Power Your Life (PYL)
- Beyond renovation, Power Your Life will explore topics that resonate – from design to outdoor power to the latest in tech innovation. We’ll deliver inspiring content via the channels they visit for information to educate our target audience about the importance of electrical safety.
- PYL will work with industry experts, and social media influencers to reach a broad range of individuals with targeted electrical safety messaging
- ECRA has mentioned that the placement of ESA ads on Kijiji makes it look like ESA is sponsoring the electrical contractor promoting their services on Kijiji

**10 Commercial Renovation Investigation Program Update (Shana Hole)**

- Results of the last 2 campaigns in the Durham and Ottawa regions were shared
  - o Durham region had 191 investigation completed which resulted in 93 sites found with no electrical permit (5 related to unlicensed contractors, 33 were property owners, and 55 involved Licensed Electrical Contractors (LECs) who did not obtain permits)
  - o Ottawa region had 254 investigations completed which resulted in 167 sites found with no electrical permit (25 related to unlicensed electrical contractors, 55 were property owners, and 88 involved LECs who did not obtain permits)
- The Commercial Renovation Investigation Program will continue into fiscal year 2019
- The Commercial Renovation Investigation Program will look to pilot a program in fiscal year 2020 targeted at residential renovations

- ESA noticed a uptick in permit applications where the Commercial Renovation Investigation Program was being conducted at the time it was underway
  - o ECRA asked if ESA had any stats on permit numbers for the targeted areas for the months following the completion of the Commercial Renovation Investigation Program in the targeted areas
- ECRA asked ESA if we had any statistics on how many sites identified, without a permit for inspection, were left in an unsafe manner or defects related to the work were found
- ESA asked ECRA if they had any suggestions on how to tackle the residential renovation program. Some ideas included
  - o The use of technology (such as drones)
  - o Offering amnesty for property owners that come forward

### 11 New Exam Platform Demonstration (Scott Eason)

- Action Item 2018-01-01 – ESA was asked about any privacy issues with the personal information of people writing the ME Exam being stored on servers in the US and the fact that the US government will have access to all this information.
  - o This concern was reviewed by ESAs legal team and there were no red flags.
  - o ESA has updated the terms to indicate their information could be hosted on a US-based server. Any person taking the exam that does not want their information potentially stored on a server located in the US can opt to write the exam using a paper copy
- September 1, 2018 is when the updated exam scoring will take effect (minimum of 60% on each section with a minimum 70% overall score to pass)
- A demo of the new exam platform and some of the features was shown

### 12 Removing references to Legislation from the ME Exam questions (Shana Hole)

- Up to fiscal year 2011 the ME Exam questions did not contain references to the legislation. In fiscal year 2012 these references were added to the questions and this resulted in an average of 6% increase in candidates passing the ME Exam
- ESA asked ECRA if the references to legislation should be removed from the ME Exam
- ECRA asked ESA if the time to write the exam would be adjusted to coincide with the legislation references being removed
  - o The time provided to write the exam will not be changed

**Motion:** To remove all Legislation references in the Master Electrician Exam

**Motioned by:** Debra Mattina

**Second:** Cameron Hann

Motion Carried

### 13 ElecCheck Update (Normand Breton)

- As of July 1, 2018 general inspections will no longer be provided by ESA. The only service offered in its place will be the ElecCheck, which is focused on high-risk homes only according to specific criteria (constructed before 1976, aluminium wiring, former cannabis grow-operations, or otherwise deemed high risk)
- [ESAs Harm Reduction Strategy](#) focuses on the harm of aging infrastructure

### 15 New Business

Key Themes from the facilitated session, in priority order

- Some items on the priority list are very similar and combining them would produce a shorter list of priorities without taking any items off the list
  - o Increased Compliance and Undergroud Economy
- Would like to see Improved Worker Competency be Improved Worker/Company Competency
- ECRA did not want to lose the continuing education component of Improved Worker/Company Competency

ECRA Chair and Vice-Chair

- ECRA wanted to make sure that since we have a full compliment of members a vote will take place at the October ECRA meeting to determine the Chair and Vice-Chair

Technical Safety B.C.

- Normand has talked with Technical Safety BC about their continuing education requirements
- Technical Safety BC has offered to come to ECRA and present on how they went about getting continuing education as a requirement for their licence holders
- ECRA is interested in having Technical Safety BC present at one of the fall meetings

**Motion:** To Adjourn the meeting

**Motioned by:** Cameron Hann

**Second:** Debra Mattina