



**For Immediate Release**

## **Minister of Consumer Services Joins Celebration of Outstanding Electrical Safety Leaders**

*ESA Honours the 2012 Ontario Electrical Safety Awards Recipients;  
Gives Special Recognition to Toronto Transit Commission Bus Driver*

MISSISSAUGA, ON/September 26, 2012/CNW – Protecting Ontarians from electrical hazards is a collective endeavour. Each year, a few remarkable individuals and organizations stand out with incredible achievements in advancing electrical safety and demonstrating their firm commitment to building a safety culture across the province. Today, the 2012 *Ontario Electrical Safety Awards* were presented to recognize and applaud outstanding contributions in four categories.

Ontario's Minister of Consumer Services, the Honourable Margaret Best joined John Wiersma, Chair of the Board, and David Collie, President and CEO of the Electrical Safety Authority in presenting the awards to the 2012 recipients:

- **Consumer/Home Safety – Enersource Mississauga** - for on-going public outreach with its innovative and engaging e-SMARTkids website that provides students, teachers and families with important information on electrical safety and energy efficiency.
- **Powerline Safety – Burlington Hydro** – for its unwavering commitment to powerline electrical safety with targeted programs and awareness campaigns for elementary students, businesses and trades, as well as its own employees.
- **Worker Safety - Electrical Safety for Emergency Responders Committee** – for spearheading the development of a best practices handbook for emergency responders to prepare them to recognize and manage potential electrical hazards in rescue and fire situations. The project committee was a collaboration by Hydro One Networks Inc, the Public Services Health & Safety Association and the Office of the Fire Marshal.
- **Product Safety – Doug Geralde – Canadian Standards Association** – for his career-long dedication to product safety on a national scale, his leadership in the Anti-Counterfeiting Network along with his work on root cause analysis and investigations into product failures.

The annual event also provided a timely opportunity to bestow a Special Recognition by the Chief Public Safety Officer to Ms. **Ewa Kozłowska** of the **Toronto Transit Commission**. The Special Recognition was bestowed for her outstanding leadership and the life-saving actions she took to protect TTC passengers and the surrounding community from grave electrical hazards when powerlines disabled the bus she was driving on August 20<sup>th</sup> this year.

“Every year, we get closer to achieving our mission of eliminating electrical fatalities and serious injuries in Ontario. Once again, award winners and their organizations exemplify the leadership, innovation and determination that are needed to protect us from electrical hazards and make us all that much safer,” said Doug Crawford, Chief Public Safety Officer, Electrical Safety Authority. “We are very proud of the Electrical Safety Awards program, a unique platform to formally acknowledge the significant contributions of so many toward our shared goal.”

Established three years ago, by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA), the awards formally recognize the significant contributions made by many people and organizations to reduce electrical fatalities, serious injuries and loss.

### **The Electrical Safety Authority**

The Electrical Safety Authority's (ESA) role is to enhance public electrical safety in Ontario. As a delegated 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.

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