



ECRA Advisory Council Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

November 19, 2019

ECRA Advisory Council Members	
Joe Kurpe	Electrical Contractors (ECAO)
Cameron Hann	Electrical Contractors (OEL)
Sean Bell	Utility Contractor Association
Larry Shaver	Electrical Contractors (ECAO)
Brian Smith	Electrical Safety Authority
Leo Grellette	Electrical Safety Authority
Steve Del Guidice	Electrical Contractors (OEL)
Larry Allison	ESA Consumer Advisory Council
Catherine Taylor	Community At Large
Debra Mattina	Municipalities
ESA Staff	
Normand Breton	
Soussanna Karas	
Shana Hole	
Tracy Durant	
Borjana Bulajic	
Allison Hawkins	
Freda Lam	
Guests	
Stephen Sell	President, OEL
Graeme Aitken	Executive Director, ECAO

1 Notice & Quorum, Minutes of ECRA AC Meeting, ESA Organization Update

- The meeting had quorum
- The following motion was carried:
Motion: To accept the minutes of the ECRA AC Meeting from October 21-22, 2019
motioned by: Brian Smith
Second: Cameron Hann
Motion carried.

- **Change of ESA Licensing Registrar – Normand Breton**
ESA recently had organizational changes. Effective January 1, 2020 Normand Breton is no longer the Director of Licensing. Soussanna Karas will be Director of Licensing effective January 1, 2020.

2 Financial Update (Action Item 2019-04-01) – Normand Breton

At the previous ECRA AC Meeting on October 21, 2019 it was asked by the council that ESA provide more financial details.

1. Information was provided with detail regarding a 19% increase with expenses from Enforcement,
It was explained that this is a result of an increase in investigations related to the Underground Economy.
2. Corporate Support had a 3% increase in expenses from 2018 to 2019. ECRA AC asked what are the expenses that incur from Corporate Support, and its meaning. The response was that Corporate Support is the assistance provided to other departments within the organization, i.e. Finance, Regulatory and Human Resources.
3. Projections for the next 3 years were also provided. The number of Master Electricians is anticipated to grow by 4%. It was asked by the Council if Continuing Education costs/New Services had been built into the projections, and the response was it had not.
4. It was asked by the Council how much of ESA's revenue comes from Licensing. The response was approximately 3%. It was explained that the bulk of ESA's revenue comes from Wiring.

3 Ontario Electrical Safety Report – Freda Lam

An overview of the 2018 OESR was provided:

- Purpose of OESR is to provide stakeholders with an update and a longitudinal perspective of electrical safety in Ontario
- Intends to educate and inform members of the electrical safety system by identifying key electrical safety risks
- Information in OESR can be used to develop and improve standards, identify areas for research, and influence development of safety programs

Electrical Related Fatalities and Incidents over the past 10 years:

1. From 2009-2018 there has been a downward trend in the rates of electrical-related fatalities, electrical fire fatalities, and electrical injuries in Ontario
2. There was a 7% decrease in total electrical fatalities when comparing 2009-2013 and 2014-2018. Also, these numbers are preliminary and are subject to change.
3. Electrical fire fatalities means where the ignition source was identified to be electrical
4. New data in the OESR tells us that the largest share of fatal injuries occur among 40-59 year olds, followed by 20 to 39 year olds.
5. Also, the majority of electrical fatalities occur in the months of July, August and December.
6. There were 0 fatalities among electrical workers in 2017-2018
7. In the past 5 years, industrial, commercial and residential were the most common settings for occupational electrical related fatalities.
8. And among those fatalities, the most common type of work involved repair/maintenance and excavation.
9. In the last 10 years, aside from unknown cause, the most commonly cited causes for occupational electrical related fatalities were due to improper installation/procedure and lack of hazard assessment.

2018 summary:

- Electrical-related fatalities (electrocutions) have remained similar to the previous year
 - Powerline contact fatalities have decreased
 - Overhead powerline contacts have increased
 - Emergency Department visits remain constant
- Electrical fire fatalities remain constant
 - Structural loss fires related to electrical products have decreased
 - Structural loss fires related to electrical distribution equipment remain constant

The following questions/statements were made by the ECRA AC in response to this presentation of material:

1 – Why are work related fatalities not reported to the public? The response was that these reports are indeed being reported in various ways - particularly with occupational fatalities social media, news. With regards to non-occupational fatalities it takes a longer time to have the information released as it takes time for the coroners office.

2 – With regards to statistics on fires, it was asked if the age of the infrastructure was documented? The response was yes, it is reported through the Fire Marshalls office.

4 Licensing Strategy – Normand Breton and Soussanna Karas

From October 1, 2019 – November 1, 2019 an External Public Consultation was posted on ESA website with Licensing Strategy materials and questions

10 comments were received from 4 Stakeholders:

- 1) One LEC
- 2) Two MEs
- 3) Joint letter from the OEL and ECAO

Major Themes:

- 1 – Increase public awareness of risks related to hiring unlicensed contractors
- 2 – Better Stakeholder Engagement
- 3 – Target Underground economy, including forming partnerships with other regulatory entities in Ontario and federally
- 4 - Improve interactions and communications with ESA, including scheduling and performing inspections

Next Steps for ECRA AC:

- In process of compiling consultation feedback
- Additional communication to better understand feedback
- Prepare ESA response to feedback
- Revise Contractor Licensing Strategy as appropriate

Fall 2019 – Final Approval of ESA Corporate Strategy

March 2020 – Board Approval of Licensing Strategy Plan

April 2020 – Launch Licensing Strategy Plan

5 Tarion Update – Normand Breton

In October 2019, the Auditor General released an Audit Report of the Tarion Warranty Corporation, its findings included that:

- Tarion operating with very little oversight
- Tarion issued licences to builders with poor warranty records
- Inadequate Response to Complaints
- Influence of Ontario Home Builders Association
- Concerns with metrics underlying compensation
- Customer Concerns - Tarion dismissed thousands of requests for help from homeowners who missed Tarion's restrictive deadlines, usually by an immaterial amount such as one day. Tarion took as long as 18 months to compensate homeowners for builder defects

Tarion and the Ministry of Government & Consumer Services have agreed to implement all of the recommendations made by the Auditor General

ESA will continue to closely monitor the situation and consider how to incorporate best practices into our own strategies moving forward

http://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/specialreports/specialreports/Tarion_en.pdf

6 Underground Economy Brainstorm – Shana Hole

Information that was covered:

As part of the Licensing Strategy, ESA seeks ECRA AC's input to identify and discuss initiatives to target unlicensed contractors operating in the residential renovation sector.

- Third pillar of the Licensing Strategy 2021-2025 has its focus on targeting the underground economy:
 - Identify current and emerging risks of the underground economy and continue activities, targeting risk areas
 - Continue efforts to improve awareness of ESA's enforcement activities to aid general deterrence of the underground economy
 - Education
- ECRA AC has the expertise and has identified it wants to engage and provide input on targeting the underground economy
- Renovation Inspection Program is one aspect of the Licensing Strategy and we want to engage ECRA AC to brainstorm ideas to focus our efforts

It was suggested by ECRA that a full day would be required to brainstorm ideas and to schedule a full day meeting prior to the first scheduled ECRA AC Meeting of 2020 which usually takes place in February of 2020. ECRA AC agreed to commit a full day meeting in January to discuss this further. A tentative date of January 13, 2020 was agreed upon.

7 Admin Update – Normand Breton

1. Membership Renewal Update – As discussed in previous ECRA AC meetings, Debra Mattina's term has come to a conclusion on the Council. ECRA AC has reached out to the president of the association for selection of a future candidate. Debra has agreed to stay on in the interim. Sean Bell's term is also coming to an end, ESA has also reached out to his association for a new candidate. A question on how new members are nominated and approved then followed. Graeme Aitken indicated he was unclear on the existing process and Normand Breton indicated he would send him a copy of the ECRA ToR which includes a section on the process



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2. License Holders' Meeting – The License Holders meeting is taking place after the ECRA Meeting and 182 contractors have registered to attend. The Agenda of the meeting was discussed. Each attendee will be receiving a package with a questionnaire, and we will be collecting this feedback during the meeting
3. Action Item 2019-04-03 – Discuss 2020 ECRA AC Meeting Dates
 1. Thursday February 20, 2020 – Agreed to hold date
 2. Thursday June 18, 2020 – Agreed to hold date
 3. Monday October 19-20, 2020 – Agreed to Hold date (Regional Meeting taking place in Northern Ontario)
 4. November 16-17, 2020 – Agreed to hold date

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Motioned by: Debra Mattina

Second: Cameron Hann