

May 9, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 12:30p.m.

Meeting held virtually

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	ESA EMPLOYEES PRESENT
Cameron Hann, OEL, Chair	Shawn Martel
Larry Allison, CAC	Declan Doyle
Vince De Gasperis, Utility Contractors Association	Saira Husain
Steve Del Guidice, OEL	Soussanna Karas
Leo Grellette, ESA	Sarah Kempel
Joe Kurpe, ECAO	Emily Larose
Catherine Taylor, Community at Large	Freda Lam
Steve Green, ECAO	
Kelly Casey, ESA	
Larry Shaver, ECAO, Vice Chair	
	REGRETS
GUESTS	
Doug McGinley, MEC Chair	

AGENDA ITEM	Call to Order Notice and Quorum No conflicts were declared with the Agenda
PRESENTER	Chair

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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MOTION	The motion to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2024 meeting.
MOTIONED	Cathy Taylor
SECONDED	Joe Kurpe
	<i>Motion carried</i>

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Review of Open Action Items:

- Working Group for guidelines will be formed to update existing document:
 - This has been paused, in light of the Licensing Technology Platform and the ME Exam
 - Action item:* Remove from open action items
- Members to provide ongoing feedback to ESA on remote inspections:
 - Hearing mix of comments, but mostly good. Quality of pictures is an issue
 - Action item:* Remove from open action items
- ESA to provide an update on high defect ratios:
 - Action item:* Remove from open action items

- ESA to review the issues of subcontracting as part of growing underground economy and look into ways to track and address these issues in a better way via RBO or other tools
 - This is an ongoing problem. The compliance escalation matrix is being reviewed and considering how to leverage AMPs
- ESA to provide update on number of app users and definition of the term “remote”
 - As of mid-April, 330 LECs are registered for the App, with over 6000 photos and videos uploaded
 - “Remote” means that the inspector is not at the site for the inspection
 - Asked whether it will be classified as a visit for the purpose of RBO. ESA Staff confirmed that it does not count towards bucketed notifications but it does count towards defects
 - Comment that app may be more suited for smaller LEC businesses (1-2 person shops)
 - **Action item:** Remove from open action items
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- ESA to circulate a link to the Regulatory Registry when it is posted
 - Posted May 8, 2024 and link was circulated by email
 - **Action item:** Remove from open action items
- ESA to consider notifying DMEs when an EC licence is no longer valid.
 - This is being put into the requirements for the new platform so it will be automated into that system when it launches in Winter 2025
- ESA to circulate revised Terms of Reference for member review: *Item 7*
- MEC Chair to provide an update on annual stats at the next meeting: *Item 11*
 - **Action item:** Remove from open action items

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AGENDA ITEM	Joe Kurpe – Good Bye and Thank you
PRESENTER	Soussanna Karas and Chair

Soussanna Karas and Chair shared recognition and thanks for Joe Kurpe’s many and ongoing contributions to ECRA Advisory Council, electrical safety and the profession.

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AGENDA ITEM	High Risk Non-Compliant LECs (High Defect Ratio etc.)
PRESENTER	Director of Licensing and Training; GM, Eastern

Soussanna Karas (Director of Licensing) and Shawn Martel (GM, Eastern Region) provided an update on the initiative to identify and address specific examples of high risk defects. Using data, identified high risk, non-compliant LECs. Impacts include increased visits (RBO), restricted scheduling, fees, restricted access to remote inspection. From licensing perspective, impact is progressive compliance action – starting with education.

Outline of pilot with 12 high defect LECs that are being put under Terms and Conditions on their licences. These LECs will be monitored for six months with requirements for training, documentation, etc. as applicable. Licences suspended if there are not improvements in defect ratio. Local Inspector will be aware and involved.

This is launching June 1st.

Comments:

- Question asked re: inspectors. Confirmed that Inspector is aware of the defect ratio of the LECs. More communication between inspectors and LECs can prevent defects
- For serious life/property defects there should be serious and immediate consequences on the licence. Recognize that the regulation builds in protection for people's licence. Discussion of balancing procedural protections with urgency and seriousness of these kinds of practices
- Question raised regarding the staff of the LECs. Potential to involve Ministry of Labour
- Suggestion it be included as a discussion topic at the Licence-Holder meeting in November

Action item: ESA to report back regarding progress of the pilot.

AGENDA ITEM	LEC Campaign Update
PRESENTER	Manager, Communications

Saira Hussain (Manager, Communications) outlined the compliance campaign for Fiscal 2024. Targeted regions with growing populations using MPAC and ESA data as well as Electro Federation Canada data on potlight sales. Used billboards, radio, TV, print. Had over 116M impressions. The find a contractor look-up tool was up 41%. Also had 4 reports of unlicensed. LEC familiarity rose to 60% (from 35%). Materials were strategically targeted in other languages for specific communities.

ESA outlined the launch of the Fiscal 2025 campaign. Identified lack of awareness that electrical permit is distinct from building permit. There is a new contractor brochure that outlines the value of a LEC, available for free to all LECs. Focus will be on millennial population in the GTA. Some new tactics include mobile billboards, malfunctioning (flashing) billboards and geofencing. Partnering with the Holmes Group, continuing to leverage the enforcement stories and those who can share stories.

Comments:

- Potential that the notification level could be because work levels reduced
- Homeowners don't know that they have liability if there is an on-the-job accident (if there isn't WSIB coverage)
- Noted that there is confusion re: difference between LEC, ME and licensed electrical contractor.
- Targeting of designers and real estate agents. ESA confirmed there is new copy for realtors on ESA website, and sharing in collaboration with the Real Estate Council of Ontario

AGENDA ITEM	OESR Update
PRESENTER	Safety Program Manager

Freda Lam (Safety Program Manager) presented the 2022 OESR. Described the interactive elements that have been created and made available on the website. Some key take-aways:

- Downward trend of electrical fatalities (fire and electrocution)
- 20-39 year old males continue to be the highest for fatalities
- Fatalities peak in the summer months

DRAFT - Minutes of the ECRA Advisory Council Meeting

- Workers in the electrical trades are trending to have slightly higher injuries, but decreased fatalities
- Non-occupational fatalities are slowing trending up

Comments:

- Question re equipment. It was confirmed that to be classified as an electrical fire – anything that is fueled by electricity. Confirmed that inattention to cooking equipment, for example, would be captured by this data
- Question asked about EVs. It was confirmed that ESA is working with the Fire Marshal's office to ask that they capture EV related data
- Question re: impact of size of workforce. It was confirmed that the occupational stats are adjusted for workforce population

AGENDA ITEM	Terms of Reference
PRESENTER	Director, Strategy & Innovation

Declan Doyle (Director, Strategy & Innovation) introduced the draft updated Terms of Reference and invited questions or comments. Aim is to bring the MEC terms in line with ECRA.

Comments:

- MEC has already voted, and approved the changes

MOTION	The motion to approved the updated Terms of Reference.
MOTIONED	Larry Allison
SECONDED	Joe Kurpe
<i>Motion Carried</i>	

AGENDA ITEM	ME Competency Profile Resource Library Update
PRESENTER	Licensing Manager

Sarah Kempel (Licensing Manager) outlined the Competency Resource Library. This is being shared with MEs by email. The technical content is very popular.

Comments:

- It was raised that there are some availability issues with the new Bulletins on the CSA site
- Suggest that the technical annual inspector training course be modified and offered to LECs. There will be some podcasts (solar, batteries and EV chargers)
- Suggestion that the CEC be engaged again to address education gaps

Action Item: ESA to review issue with Bulletin availability/access

Meeting Moved In-Camera

AGENDA ITEM	MEC Chair Update (In-Camera)
PRESENTER	Doug McGinley

Doug McGinley (MEC Chair) provided an update on MEC activities, including quarterly updates on ME exams stats; exam transfers; and the need to update MEC member term lengths in the Terms of Reference to align with ECRA AC term lengths. Summary of some key stats from Fiscal 2024:

- Number who wrote the exam increased to 1330 (from 1284)
- Pass rate increased by 12.3%
- Virtual pass rate rose

Comments:

- Supplying the paper copy of the reference materials would help to address the exam security issue

AGENDA ITEM	MEC Exam Update (In-Camera)
PRESENTER	Director, Licensing & Licensing Manager

Soussanna Karas (Director, Licensing) outlined that the investigation is still ongoing. There were three culprits. (1) Relating to website which has ESA questions as part of their course materials. (2) centralized exam taking center, with a fast high passing rate. (3) resale of ESA questions on Kijiji.

Overview of actions taken and underway. Working with legal counsel on actions against perpetrators. In the meantime, all exams are in person with enhanced protocols. Generating additional questions, with engagement of MEC. Have discussed a repeat writers policy. Sarah Kempel outlined the jurisdictional scan.

Comments:

- Expressions of concern about the competency candidates who used these courses and relied on those questions.
- 2018 physiotherapy accreditation exam example provided with identical breaches. Solution in that situation was to make them all take the exam again. In that case, there was a physical exam as well so they kept the virtual modality.
- Expression of support for the in person modality. Distance shouldn't be a driving factor.
- Suggestion that use of online modality, if at all, could be limited to those from remote areas.
- Discussion of modalities: need a different proctoring provider, remote locations, recognition of political pressure, recognition of need for growth in industry, monitoring of results,
- A number strongly in favour of in-person. Risk of people being pushed to underground economy.

Action item: Further update at next meeting

Meeting Resumed

AGENDA ITEM	Roundtable Discussion
PRESENTER	ECRA AC Members

Members discussed:

- Emerging issue relating to bonding of meterbases. Engaging with manufacturers re: instructions. ESA will be communicating to LDCs, LECs & DMEs
- Education for apprentices is changing in September 2025
- Working at heights is getting more stringent – now incorporates ladders
- Consider risk of Air fryer fires

MOTION	To adjourn meeting.
MOTIONED	Kelly Casey
SECONDED	Vince De Gasperis
<i>Motion carried</i>	

ADJOURNMENT: 12:30 p.m.

End of ECRA AC meeting

If there are any discrepancies to these minutes, please report them by email to the Chair or Patience Cathcart.

Next Meeting: October 23, 2024

Location: Zoom