

## ECRA Advisory Council

September 11, 2025

9:00am, Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### Present:

ECRA/AC Members:	ESA:	MPBSD & Guests	Regrets:
Larry Shaver	Sarah Kempel	Laura Campbell	Kelley Casey
James Boritz	Shana Hole		Steve Del Guidice
Vince De Gasperis	Declan Doyle		Leo Grellette
Cathy Taylor	Alex Piccini		Nick Mammoliti
	Alex Janack		
	Cynthia Magill		
	Scott Eason		

### Welcome and Preliminaries

The Acting Chair, Larry, welcomed members to the meeting. Attendance and quorum were confirmed. No conflicts of interest were declared. The minutes of the June 11, 2025, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Motion: Approval of the minutes from the June 11 ECRA meeting

Moved by: Larry

Seconded: James

Carried

### ECRA/AC Membership and Terms of Reference Update & Introductions

Declan presented revised Terms of Reference incorporating feedback from previous discussions, which were approved unanimously. The committee confirmed a majority attendance, and Declan will update the Terms of Reference document with approved changes and set the date for the mandatory two-year review. Membership updates included the addition of Nick Mammoliti as a new member and the temporary absence of Doug, with Beatrice Sharkey proposed as a non-voting observer. Declan will coordinate with OEL regarding Beatrice's participation and send a meeting invitation to her as a visitor for the next ECRA meeting in November. The council acknowledged and welcomed Beatrice's participation. Declan introduced Alex Piccini as a new stakeholder advisor supporting advisory council meetings.

## **2025 Licence Holder Meeting (LHM) Update & ESA's Annual Meeting & Ontario Electrical Safety Awards**

Shana provided an overview of upcoming events, including the Ontario Electrical Safety Awards next week and the annual Licence Holder Meeting on November 26, 2025. Attendance was encouraged. This year's meeting theme is 'Wired for Change: Connecting through Digital Innovation.' Larry will present the ECRA Chair presentation, and Shana will send out invitations at the end of October/early November to ECRA members.

### **Labour Mobility and Harmonization Framework Update**

Declan outlined progress on labour mobility and harmonization across provinces. The Canadian Electrical Code is almost completely harmonized for use Canada-wide, with Ontario maintaining some unique and forward-looking amendments. Legislation and MOUs support deemed equivalency for master electricians from Alberta and BC. Sarah clarified that the process is not a shortcut; it is a regulated, time-limited pathway that requires applicants to meet Ontario's licensing standards, still requiring the ME exam within six months. Declan and Sarah will report back at the next meeting regarding Electrical Contractor (business/entity) mobility. Larry and others noted minimal industry impact to date.

### **ESA Administrative Penalty Order (APO) Process Update**

Alex Janack presented updates on the APO process, noting 172 penalties issued worth \$627,000 across 104 cases since April 2023. ESA has collected \$118,000 to date and plans to enhance collections through court orders, liens, and credit score impacts. When breaking down APOs by violation type, the most common contraventions are Working/Operating without a licence, working without a notification, and Illegally Advertising without a licence. This reflects ESAs' commitment to use APOs to address contraventions associated with the underground economy. The 'Pete the Permit' campaign launched in April to raise consumer awareness and target postal codes with a history of APOs, focusing on areas with high rates of non-compliance. ESA has also developed and implemented a framework for applying APOs to licence holders. Since implementation, ESA has not issued an APO directly against a licensee; the only APOs issued against licensees have been for unlicensed activity (e.g., A ME performing electrical work without a EC Licence). Larry and Stephen commended progress and encouraged further improvements in collection rates.

### **Regulatory Compliance Program Enforcement Overview**

Cynthia presented ongoing enforcement initiatives targeting unlicensed contractors in the underground economy. She highlighted ESA's multi-pronged strategy to mitigate risks to public safety and ensure fair competition. This approach includes: data-informed enforcement efforts, strategic partnerships, collaboration with stakeholders & safety partners, and proactive & reactive education efforts. A key component of this strategy is the Regulatory Compliance Program (RCP), which was established to identify and respond to trends in unlicensed and non-compliant electrical installations. The RCP focuses on both

current and emerging risks, developing targeted initiatives, and continuing enforcement in high-risk areas. Programs under the RCP include enforcement related to: electric vehicle chargers, building permits, real estate listings, as well as outreach through Kijiji and Facebook.

Cynthia shared the most recent results from the Building Permit & Real Estate listing initiatives. Follow-up inspections on Building Permit leads in Ajax, Clarington, and Brampton identified 158 locations where electrical work had been completed without a notification or inspection. Additionally, a review of residential Real Estate listings across 13 municipalities resulted in 151 locations found with electrical work completed without a notification or inspection.

ECRA members were asked for feedback on trends, emerging issues, and initiative ideas. Discussion focused on improving compliance with electric vehicle charging systems and pot light installations. Members discussed potential partnerships with Home Depot, Home Hardware, and utilities, and the use of real estate transactions to promote homeowner education. Declan & the Communications team will continue engagement with auto dealerships, while Stephen recommended exploring partnerships with AutoTrader and car dealerships. The group acknowledged challenges in accessing utility data due to privacy constraints.

### **Licensing Technology Platform**

Scott Eason provided details on the upcoming launch of the new online self-serve licensing platform scheduled for October 20, 2025. Sarah highlighted benefits for licence holders and ESA staff. The platform replaces paper-based processes and provides a centralized, web-based experience for renewing and applying for licences, paying fees, and managing licensing documents. ME Exam applicants can also register for an exam, and, upon passing, seamlessly apply for their ME licence through the same platform. Stephen raised correspondence concerns for Designated Master Electricians (DME), which will be reviewed for future updates.

Scott discussed the transition period for the new platform, noting a 10-day cutover process. Larry and Stephen emphasized ensuring DMEs are copied on all defect communications. Scott acknowledged this concern and clarified that the licensing platform is dedicated solely to licensing-related business and does not support notification-based activities, such as defect correspondence. Scott also explained that while defect management is currently outside the scope of the licensing platform, ESA is planning a broader modernization initiative that aims to update other areas of ESA operations (similar to the recent licensing platform upgrade) and could potentially address the integration of defect correspondence.

### **Roundtable**

Participants raised safety concerns about the growing issue of uncertified products being sold online. Cathy and Stephen advocated for visual safety messaging, enhanced by personal stories and narratives to make OESR statistics more relatable and impactful. Vince and

James emphasized the need for stronger oversight of electrical product sales on online vendors like Amazon and AliExpress. The group agreed on the need for more effective communication to consumers and industry professionals aimed at raising awareness and promoting safer practices in electrical work and product usage.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

Motion: Adjourn Meeting at 11:10am

Moved by: Stephen

Seconded: James

Carried

Having completed the agenda, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for 26-November-2025, with Glen to provide the MEC update.