Electrical Contractor Registration Agency of the Electrical Safety Authority

21-May-2026 **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Meeting held virtually via Zoom

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	**ESA STAFF PRESENT**
Larry Shaver, ECAO, Acting Chair	Sarah Kempel, Director of Licensing
Steve Del Guidice, OEL	Shana Hole, Manager of Licensing
James Boritz, CAC	Alex Piccini, Stakeholder Advisor
Vince De Gasperis, UCAO	Alicia Smith, GM Wiring Development
Kelly Casey, ESA Nominee	Maggie Young, Senior Accounts Receivable
Steven Green, ECAO	
Leo Grellette, ESA Nominee	
Nick Mammoliti, ECAO	
Louie Violo, OEL	
GUESTS	**REGRETS**
Allison Nicholls, MPBSDP	Cathy Taylor, Community at Large
Glen Hicks, Chair, MEC	
Jillian Siskind, Principal, Siskind Doyle	

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

MOTION	The motion to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2026, ECRA meeting.
MOTIONED	Kelly Casey
SECONDED	Steve Del Guidice
	Motion carried

Review of Open Action Items:

Master Examining Committee Update

- Glen Hicks and Shana Hole provided a quarterly update of Master Exam results.
- The Chair, on behalf of the entire AC, thanked Shana for her many years of support to the ECRA AC.

STO Instructor Availability in Eastern, Ontario

- Alex Piccini shared an update from Skilled Trades Ontario on challenges in accessing both exam spots and instructors in Eastern Ontario, previously raised by ECRA AC members.
- Alex noted ESA has connected with STO and obtained regional direct contact details for STO staff specifically focused on examinations by region and down to the municipal level.
- Alex shared that in ESA's discussion with STO, they noted that ultimately STO has limited involvement on the actual training delivery, this is largely led by unions and career colleges and is therefore highly dependent on resources from individual Training Delivery Agents and the provincial government.

Action Items: Alex will ensure that the resources from STO are shared alongside the meeting minutes.

Safety Awards & LHM Placeholders

- Alex Piccini confirmed that the 2026 Ontario Electrical Safety Awards nomination period has now closed and that invitations to the awards would be shared in July 2026 with AC members.
- Alex noted that the annual License Holder Meeting invitation would be shared once available later in the year. The annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 19th from 2:30-4:00pm.

Licensing-specific opportunities to expand correspondence to the DME

- Sarah noted that ESA licensing is working with the team focused on ERP to see what opportunities may exist to enhance communications directly to the Designated Master Electrician, acknowledging their duties and responsibilities regarding oversight & supervision

Action Items: None.

AGENDA ITEM	ECRA Member Update
PRESENTER	Sarah Kempel, Director of Licensing, ESA Alex Piccini, Stakeholder Advisor, ESA

- Sarah Kempel welcomed ECRA AC's newest member, Louie Violo representing the Ontario Electrical League. The Chair welcomed Louie and thanked him for joining the ECRA AC to contribute his expertise.
- Alex Piccini shared that the public posting for the ECRA AC Member at Large position is public and was shared with the AC prior to meeting. ESA is currently reviewing applications received.

Action Item: Alex to share a further update with the ECRA AC following the conclusion of the ESA Board Subcommittee's nomination process. A visual of appointments and terms will also be shared.

AGENDA ITEM	Labour Mobility/Harmonization
PRESENTER	Sarah Kempel, Director of Licensing, ESA

- Since the Ontario Labour Mobility Act (OLMA) as-of-right provisions took effect January 1st, 2026, ESA has issued six provisional ME licensed for out-of-province MEs seeking to get their equivalent Ontario ME licence.
- The Ontario Free Trade and Mobility Act (OFTMA) legislation focused on goods and services mobility, which includes the recognition of equivalent EC licences issued by Canadian jurisdictions designated as reciprocating, is still under regulatory review.
- Alex noted that implementation for LEC equivalency remains up to the government and likely the earliest possible implementation date is likely January 1, 2027. ESA will continue to share updates as things progress.
- Alex asked Allison Nicholls from MPBSDP if she had any updates on government direct around OFTMA. Allison noted she did not have any update to share at this time.

Action Item: Sarah and Alex to bring forward a relevant update once further government direction is provided.

AGENDA ITEM	RBO Presentation
PRESENTER	Alicia Smith, GM Wiring Development, ESA

- Alicia Smith presented an update on ESA's risk-based oversight (RBO) model including how defect ratios are calculated based on visited notifications and inspection service levels.
- Members discussed defect ratio concerns when they are non-technical issues like administrative data entry errors. Alicia explained that technical and warning defects typically contribute to defect ratios, but administrative defects generally don't. Alicia also offered to discuss any specific situations with members following the meeting
- Members shared feedback on how defects are counted across multiple units, inquiring how to fairly represent the overall quality of work completed.
- Alicia explained the current defect ratio calculation system, clarifying that technical defects equal one notification while warning defects are weighted at 20% of a technical defect's value, and both calculations use a 12-month rolling window.

- Members discuss the importance of Designated Master Electricians (DMEs) receiving important notifications about defect ratios and thresholds, as these communications often go to administrators who may not prioritize the technical aspects.
- Alicia explained that DMEs can be granted access to information through the LEC Online Portal and Sarah reiterated that ESA is working with the ERP team to address user-based permissions and improve notification systems, particularly for DMEs who are responsible for safety concerns.
- The AC members further discussed notification requirements and penalties for contractors in relation to RBO. Alicia explained that while the current system requires contractors to meet specific notification thresholds and defect ratios, a small percentage of contractors are flagged for review with fewer still being suspended for three months due to non-compliance for Working Without a Permit, Unauthorized Connection or for leaving a Life and or Property Defect.
- Members acknowledged that this is not a trending concern.
- Members reiterated the feedback that copying DMEs on RBO correspondence would be beneficial, noting this should be a priority for the ESA ERP project.

Action Item: Alicia to connect with relevant members on site specific RBO questions. Sarah to relay feedback to the ERP project team that DME communications and notifications is a priority for licensees.

AGENDA ITEM	Bi-Annual ESA Stakeholder Survey Results
PRESENTER	Alex Piccini, Stakeholder Advisor, ESA

- Alex Piccini presented the results of ESA's biannual multi-stakeholder accountability survey conducted in November-December 2025, which measured performance across four stakeholder groups including LECs/MEs, homeowners, utilities, and safety industry stakeholders.
- Alex first provided some background on how ESA partners with Innovative Strategy Group to conduct the survey at arms length and the methodology behind outreach to the various stakeholder groups.
- Alex noted that the survey showed consistent performance meeting an 8/10 target score, with notable improvements in fairness, respect, trust, and service for LECs/MEs, though some areas like transparency and innovation still need improvement.
- Alex emphasized that the scoring for the amount of regulation (too little vs. too much) for LECs and MEs was largely reduced with 78% of the licensed community agreeing that Ontario's electrical system is appropriately regulated.
- Furthermore, Alex underscored that among electricians, individual scores remain either stable or up significantly. Relative to 2023, the scores that saw the single biggest increases include perceptions of fairness, respect, trust, and service.
- Alex concluded noting that the survey results are public on ESAs website and were shared with AC members when it was initially published earlier in the Spring.

- Members suggested that ESA consider rewording certain questions that score low to make them more relevant for audiences such as homeowners who may have difficulty seeing how ESA is an innovative organization given their limited interaction with ESA. Alex noted he would take this back to Innovative Strategy ahead of future iterations of the survey.

Action Item: Alex to share feedback with Innovative Strategy Group for new bi-annual survey.

AGENDA ITEM	Licensing & Training Grant for Indigenous Journeypersons
PRESENTER	Sarah Kempel, Director of Licensing, ESA

- Sarah Kempel presented a new initiative that ESA would be launching, the Licensing and Training Grant for Indigenous electricians in partnership with Indigenous Skills, Employment, Apprenticeship and Development (ISEAD).
- She noted the program would offer both financial support, as well as training, guidance, and mentorship for Indigenous electricians to become Master Electricians and LECs. The grant will cover costs including the online pre-master's course & materials, exam fees, and first year licence fees for up to five individuals this fiscal year, with applications opening June 1, 2026.
- There was broad support for the initiative from AC members. Members also offered to amplify awareness through their networks, and to share any connections (individuals or organizations) who may be interested in supporting or applying.

Action Item: Sarah to report back following first year of the program to share results.

AGENDA ITEM	Brief Update: Notice of Proposals & Orders
PRESENTER	Sarah Kempel, Director of Licensing, ESA

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- A brief update was provided on the issuance of Administrative Penalty Orders (APOs) to licensees, a process that was consulted on with the ECRA Advisory Committee throughout last fiscal year. As part of the existing established framework, members were advised that licence holders may begin receiving APOs for orders related to uncorrected defects, initiated under the statutory authority of Regional GMs.
- There was broad support from members, along with important feedback emphasizing the need to ensure defects are thoroughly validated prior to escalation. Sarah confirmed that this is an embedded control within the process to maintain accuracy and integrity. Sarah also shared the existing decision-making frameworks that support consistent and fair application of enforcement tools such as APOs, including the “education-first” approach, where only repeat and/or deliberate non-compliance, in consideration of risk and severity, results in escalated enforcement actions.

- Sarah also outlined potential changes under consideration for addressing situations where LECs are operating without DMEs. This may include moving away from Notices of Proposal (NOPs) and instead relying on the O.Reg 570/05 requirement to cease operations. Members expressed support and requested further details as this work evolves.

Action Item: Sarah to follow-up as process review progresses.

AGENDA ITEM	Quick Update: Cheques as a Method of Payment
PRESENTER	Maggie Young, Senior, Accounts Receivable, ESA

- Maggie Young provided a brief update on ESA's intention to eliminate checks as a payment method by September 1, 2027.
- Maggie noted increased fraud risks, payment delays, and environmental impacts as key reasons for the change.
- The transition will be supported through various communications channels.
- She further noted that LECs and MEs currently paying by cheque constitute a very small minority of licensees and direct communications to those impacted would be shared well in advance to apprise them of alternative payment options.
- Overall members viewed this as a natural and timely step forward, aligning well with ongoing digital advancements.

Action Items: None.

AGENDA ITEM	Powerline Safety Campaign
PRESENTER	Alex Piccini, Stakeholder Advisor, ESA

- Alex Piccini presented an update on the Powerline Safety Campaign, outlining efforts to reduce electrical fatalities and injuries by 10% through educational initiatives targeting at-risk demographics, particularly males aged 18-39 and DIY electrical product enthusiasts.
- Alex noted that the campaign includes traditional media outreach, gaming initiatives, and new partnerships with organizations like Landscape Ontario, with a goal of reaching 4 million Ontarians this year.
- AC members noted they wish to see impact once campaign concludes. Alex noted he would be happy to report back with more data once the campaign closes.

Action Items: Alex to provide an update upon conclusion of the campaign and impact data.

AGENDA ITEM	Governance Refresher & Best Practices
PRESENTER	Jillian Siskind, Principal, Siskind Doyle

- Jillian Siskind provided a comprehensive refresher on governance and best

practices for ECRA emphasizing the advisory role of council members and the importance of acting in the public interest while representing their respective industry associations or constituencies.

- Jillian outlined key duties including fiduciary responsibilities, duty of care, and confidentiality requirements, stressing that while members can advocate for their organizations' views and perspectives, ultimate decisions around compliance, enforcement and licensure rest with ESA as the authority & regulator.

Action Items: None.

AGENDA ITEM	ECRA Member Update and Vote (In Camera)
PRESENTER	Alex Piccini, Stakeholder Advisor, ESA

- Discussion was held in camera.

Action Items: Alex to coordinate new member onboarding. Alex to coordinate review of Member at Large applications via email in advance of September meeting.

AGENDA ITEM	Roundtable
PRESENTER	All

- AC members requested that all materials presented were to be circulated alongside the meeting minutes.

MOTION	To adjourn the meeting.
MOTIONED	Vince De Gasperis
SECONDED	Kelley Casey
	Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: 12:00 PM

End of ECRA AC meeting

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

Next Meeting: September 17, 2026 – In person at ESA

Provincial Office