



ESA Licensing Strategic Plan 2021-2025 - Consultation Backgrounder

The Electrical Safety Authority is in the process of developing and seeking stakeholder feedback on a plan that is a blueprint for the direction of licensing regulation for Licensed Electrical Contractors (LECs), Designated Master Electricians (DMEs) and Master Electricians (MEs). This backgrounder will help with responses to the public consultation on the *Licensing Strategic Plan 2021-2025*.

The *Licensing Strategic Plan 2021-2025* outlines ESA's licensing purpose, goals and related activities and is an enabler of ESA's *Five-Year Corporate Strategy 2021-2025*. ESA's *Licensing Strategic Plan 2021-2025* considers the broad approaches ESA will take to clarify and simplify the paths to compliance for all Licence Holders, while it also acts as a partner that encourages a culture of electrical safety that will add value to the lives of all Ontarians. The plan proposes three initiatives with supporting activities:

Initiative 1: Motivate Compliance by Licence Holders

- Use technology to improve interaction with ESA
- Review and assess a continuous education and development framework
- Celebrate licensed role models
- Enhance compliance oversight to consider a selected audit process

Initiative 2: Maintain Public Confidence in the LEC and ME Community

- Provide access to select information
- Share licensing operational experience with other ESA departments
- Continuous improvement of licensing practices through collaboration with the Ontario Government

Initiative 3: Targeted Enforcement Activities Against the Underground Economy

- Identify trends in unlicensed electrical work and continue enforcement actions
- Increase awareness of ESA's enforcement effort

Should the consultation and approval processes be successful, ESA intends to begin implementation in April 2020. ESA will engage the licensed community and industry when developing the supporting activities that are included in the final *Licensing Strategic Plan 2021-2025*.

Over the past year, ESA has consulted with ESA staff, advisory councils and the electrical contracting industry. These groups have provided advice that continuously strengthened the *draft Licensing Strategic Plan 2021-2025*. The Electrical Contractor Registration Agency Advisory Council (ECRA AC) worked with particular focus on recommendations for improvement. ESA would also like to thank ESA staff, the Contractor Advisory Council, the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario, the Ontario Electrical League and the Utility Contractors Association of Ontario for their time and expertise.

ESA would like to hear from you. The full draft plan and consultation materials can be found here www.esasafe.com/consultations. All LECs, MEs and other stakeholders are encouraged to comment on the plan. Should you have any questions, please email stakeholder.esa@electricalsafety.on.ca