

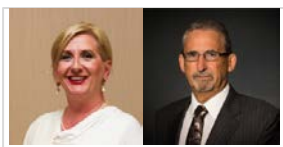


Current News

...Now You Are Connected!

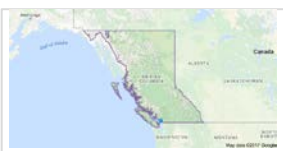


IN THIS ISSUE:



From the Top
President's & Chairman's
Message

[READ MORE](#) • PAGES 2 & 3



ECABC Chapter
Updates

Vancouver, Central BC
and Vancouver Island

[READ MORE](#) • PAGES 4 & 5



Read Now
Silica Risk Prevention:
Jeff Lyth

[READ MORE](#) • PAGE 6



Subcontract
Program
ECABC and MCABC
working together

[READ MORE](#) • PAGE 9



Advocacy
Women in Trades

[READ MORE](#) • PAGE 8



Training &
Education
More Courses &
Members Save up to
27% on Fees!

[READ MORE](#) • PAGE 10



**ECABC welcomes Susanna
Lim and Siobhan Ashton:**

[READ MORE](#) • PAGE 3



BC PST: Need help?

[READ MORE](#) • PAGE 4



**ECABC 10 Tendering Best
Practices:**

[READ MORE](#) • PAGE 7



Upcoming Events:

Plan for Courses and Events

[EVENTS CALENDAR](#) • ECABC WEBSITE



Membership Pays!

bClear benefits Group Coverage

Save 15% on OOSHEW Safety Training!

[READ MORE](#) • PAGE 10



Sparky's Shorts:

Wisecracks and wisdom...

[READ MORE](#) • PAGE 8



Watch us on YouTube!

www.youtube.com/user/ecabcTV

[ECABC Subcontract Program](#)

[Industry Resources: Health & Safety Publications](#)

Members:
Save up to 50% NOW on Code
Books & other Publications!
[MORE INFO](#)

2017 Canada-BC
Job Grant (CJG)
Apply Now!
[MORE INFO](#)





**houle
electric**

**Proudly serving all BC since 1944 with
offices in Greater Vancouver, Victoria,
Nanaimo, Prince George, Kelowna,
Kamloops and Kitimat**

**CANADA'S BEST
MANAGED
COMPANIES** Corporate Head Office
604.434.2681

CLICK HERE TO VISIT WWW.HOULE.CA



President's Message

2017 marks our 65th year as an association. In 1952 a small group of electrical contractors got together because they recognized that building the Province of BC would take cooperation amongst competitors. They formed the ECABC so they could share ideas and grow with the province - together. They were faced with many of the same challenges we are still working on today. From rallying for the safety and rights of electrical workers and improving education to teamwork and quality of life.

Our founders pushed for improved regulations over supervisor to trainee ratios, enhancing apprenticeship training courses, and our membership benefit programs. Today we are still prioritizing these interests and have added a few more issues including a plan to create a list of Tendering Best Practices, educating our members on minimizing the risks inherent in subcontracting and lobbying government regulators.

This is a time for us to look to the future with optimism. I salute the dedication of our founders and the work done by hundreds of volunteers each year around the province who have dedicated their lives to our trade. We have engaged our core members by offering more tangible benefits, improved our education and training opportunities while also advocating for better safety and the growth potential for our top untapped resource: women in trades.

We have grown our association into a cohesive voice for the electrical industry. ECABC has been the voice of electrical workers in British Columbia since 1952, yet we are still looking to add new members who can enjoy the benefits we offer - but just as importantly - share their ideas for progress as we look to the future.

I look forward to celebrating our 65th anniversary with you over the remainder of 2017! Congratulations to you all.

Deborah Cahill,
ECABC President

**GUILLEVIN
INTERNATIONAL co.**
Your Single Source Solution

With thousands of product options from hundreds of manufacturers, it's clear to see why Guillevin has become BC's electrical distributor of choice

Campbell River • Nanaimo • Vancouver • Burnaby • Port Coquitlam
Surrey • Langley • Abbotsford • Chilliwack • Castlegar • Cranbrook
Kelowna • Kamloops • Prince George • Fort St. John

www.guillevin.com

ECABC welcomes Susanna Lim and Siobhan Ashton



Susanna Lim
Member Services Coordinator

Susanna Lim joined ECABC on March 13, 2017 as our Membership Services Coordinator. Susanna has a strong background in customer service and administration. She has worked as the Sales Coordinator for Harbour Cruises for nearly 5 years. Susanna has a Bachelors of Arts in Communication with a minor in publishing. She has received the Certificate of Nomination for the Vancouver Tourism Awards for Excellence in Customer Service.



Siobhan Ashton
Education Coordinator

Siobhan Ashton joined ECABC on April 7, 2017 as our Education Coordinator (maternity leave replacement for Melissa Cornwell). Siobhan is a very enthusiastic new team member who recently moved to Vancouver from Australia. She has worked for Urban E-Learning in Australia, which provides online and in-person training courses to a variety of industries. Siobhan was promoted from office administrative assistant to the admin and training coordinator role. She has superb communications skills and is looking forward to working with ECABC members.



Chairman's Report: **Morris Lansing**

ECABC has been the representative of the electrical industry for the past 65 years. Our association has grown to a position where today, we are the voice of the electrical industry. We represent you and your companies. We have worked on your behalf with local, regional and national governments and have lobbied industry regulators wherever necessary to protect the interests of our companies and all electrical workers.

Looking ahead, what are your concerns today? In order to advance our position as the voice of the electrical industry in BC we must focus our energies on the problems and challenges you are dealing with. Together we can build strategies to help you and your workers succeed in an ever-changing market. We would like to hear from you. Please tell us what your concerns are in running your business. We can then address these to help make our industry better for everyone going forward. Send these to the ECABC office now so we can include them in our discussions this spring.

An important date is coming up. May 9th is British Columbia Election Day. This is when the people will decide the future direction for our province. I encourage you all to take the time to vote and support the candidates who best represent your interests in your riding. Remember if you do not vote, you cannot complain about the government! If you vote: "This is what you get." If you do not vote: "This is what you have."

In closing thanks to all volunteers and those who sit on committees and the executives of our three chapters. We have a busy schedule of events planned for the next few months and it is our volunteers who make those enjoyable for all members. If you have not come forward to help your chapter, I encourage you to step up and make a contribution.

Best wishes for a safe and prosperous spring building season!

Morris Lansing,
Chair/ECABC Board of Directors



Graybar[®]
CANADA

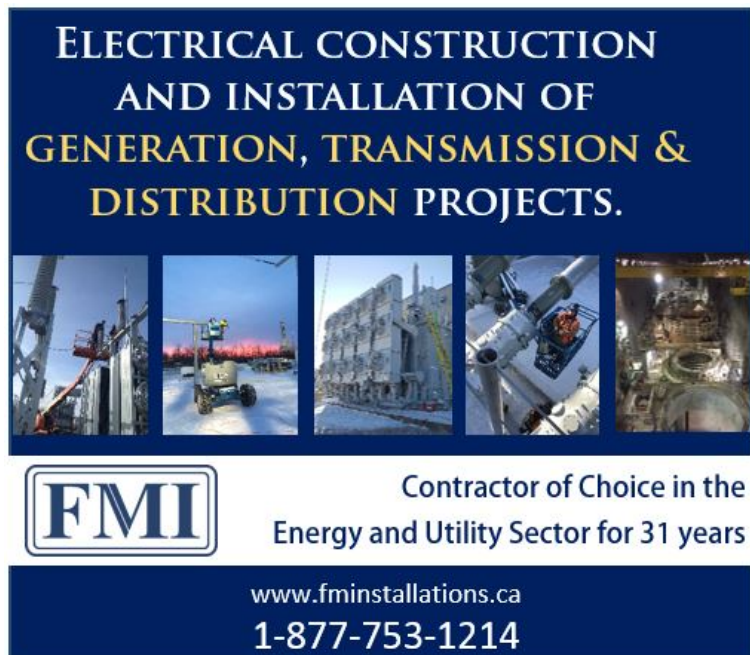
Unit 115, 6741 Cariboo Rd., Burnaby, BC
604-676-4400

**NOW A FULLY STOCKED
ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTOR**


Communications & Data | Security | Electrical | Wire & Cable

Open Early!
Weekdays 6am - 4:30pm

graybarcanada.com | info@graybarcanada.com



**ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION
AND INSTALLATION OF
GENERATION, TRANSMISSION &
DISTRIBUTION PROJECTS.**



FMI

Contractor of Choice in the
Energy and Utility Sector for 31 years

www.fminstallations.ca
1-877-753-1214

BC Provincial Sales Tax... Do you need help? Cut through red tape...

The BC Ministry of Finance wants to help electrical contractors understand how Provincial Sales Tax (PST) affects their business. This will be of interest to contractors or businesses that make retail sales of goods and/or install goods into buildings or land. The Branch Ministry of Finance has posted a new video that outlines PST rules and how they apply to real property contractors.

Watch the video on [YouTube](#).

The Ministry of Finance has also created [a new Bulletin \(PST 321\)](#) of how the PST may apply when businesses located outside BC do business in BC.

For more information:

Jacqueline Roodbol, Corporate Services Branch/BC Ministry of Finance

250.953.3623 Jacqueline.Roodbol@gov.bc.ca

Vancouver Chapter: Dan Robertson

ECABC, the Vancouver Chapter Executive and the Best Practices Task Force have been working in conjunction with Dr. Awad Hanna to create a list of Tendering Best Practices.

Chapter Chair Dan Robertson said, "At our January 24th Chapter Meeting we had a round table discussion where we recorded members' suggestions on how to approach the top three (of ten) best practices as identified by our members. They are, in order of vote popularity, "Increase trust, provide open communications between parties, and working together to reduce the practice of owners supplying materials." Our goal is to deal with all ten Tendering Best Practices in order of importance.

Graham Trafford is a member of The Best Practices Task Force. "We met again on March 21st to brainstorm each of the top three points and come up with ways to make them part of our best practices. We will work on the wording over the next few weeks and plan to submit our ideas at our October 24th Vancouver Chapter meeting. Mark your calendars. All members are invited to attend." (See Best Practices article on [page 7](#) of this newsletter.)

(continued next page)

Vancouver Chapter (continued)

The February 21st Chapter Meeting featured a presentation on the BCCA Silica Tool with guest speaker Jeff Lyth. (For more on that topic go to: www.silicacontroltool.com).

The social committee arranged a function on March 31st at The Blue Martini Jazz Café in Kitsilano featuring the band Bluestreet. It was a great evening that was attended by 66 members, spouses and guests.

The Chapter Meeting held on April 25th included a pre-meeting seminar on "Changes to Section 64 of the Canadian Electrical Code" with Ted Simmons, Chief Instructor (BCIT Electrical Trades Program) and a presentation from BCIT's Sr. Instructor Rob McLarin on the "BCIT Renewable Energy Certificate Program". After the seminar, the meeting featured a presentation: "Introduction of Solar" with guest speaker, Jason Zurowski, General Manager, Utility and Industrial, EECOL Electric.

The annual ECABC Vancouver Chapter Golf Tournament will be held on May 25th, 2017. The event is sold out, but sponsorship opportunities for holes and door prizes are still available.

Vancouver Island Chapter: Kevin Sumpton

On February 23rd the Vancouver Island Chapter held a Chapter Meeting at the Inn at Laurel Point in Victoria featuring guest speaker Tyler Galbraith on "best Procurement Practices: A Legal Perspective" that was attended by 20 members.

A spring social event will be announced shortly and the Chapter Golf Tournament will be on September 15th, 2017. Visit the ECA website or contact Member Services Coordinator, Susanna Lim, for details.

For all events check the [ECABC website](http://www.eca.bc.ca).

Central Chapter: Nick Hauff



The ECABC Central Chapter held a very successful Lunch and Learn Seminar with WorkSafeBC on February 9th. Twenty-three members attended and learned about silica, arc flash, and working at heights.

The Central Chapter is planning a spring Chapter Meeting on May 11th in Prince George with guest speaker, Tyler Galbraith: "Best Procurement Practices, a legal perspective." The MCA/ECA Central Chapter Golf Tournament is scheduled for August 25, 2017 in Prince George.

For updated Chapter Events and information check the events calendar: www.eca.bc.ca

Trades Training Fund adds \$500,000 from LNG Canada

The BCCA has announced the Trades Training Fund (TTF) will continue to provide funding to train BC apprentices - thanks to an additional contribution of \$500,000 from LNG Canada. The TTF's goal is to attract new participants and employers. They have announced new parameters, taking effect February 1, 2017, including:

- A per participant limit of 1 course will be introduced, unless the second course is a completion course (eg. Level 4);

- Only employees of small companies of 20 employees or less will be eligible;

- Employers must apply to the fund directly, rather than through a 3rd party representative group;

- Applications must be received one month prior to the month the classes start. For example: For April training, applications must be submitted by February 28

- Priority will be given to applications from Northwest BC

With gratitude for your continued contribution to the efforts of [LNG Canada](http://www.lngcanada.com) to help build BC's skilled workforce.

For more details, please contact ECABC's Education Coordinator: Siobhan Ashton (604) 294-4123 education@eca.bc.ca

Silica Risk Prevention

WorkSafeBC describes Silica as the most common hazard on a work site. It is the basic component in sand and rock. Silica is in construction materials such as:

- Concrete, concrete block, cement, and mortar
- Masonry, tiles, brick, and refractory brick
- Granite, sand, fill dirt, and top soil
- Asphalt-containing rock or stone
- Abrasive used for sand blasting

Silica dust can cause silicosis, a lethal and irreversible lung disease. It is also linked to lung cancer. As workers breathe in the dust the silica crystals settle deep in their lungs.



Jeff Lyth, CRSP CHSC,
QSP Leadership

Jeff Lyth from QSP Leadership sits on the Silica Steering Committee with UBC, WorkSafeBC and the BCCSA.

“Silica is one of the most common substances on the planet. Respirable (breathable) crystalline silica is too small to see but it is like a microscopic shard of glass. It requires attention and awareness. The harder the substance the finer the silica produced by grinding, cutting, drilling.”

Any activity that creates dust can expose workers to airborne silica. The most common ways to create silica dust include:

- Chipping, sawing, grinding, hammering, or drilling
- Crushing, loading, hauling, or dumping
- Building demolition
- Power cutting or dressing stone
- Facade renovation, including tuck-point work
- Abrasive or hydro blasting
- Dry sweeping or pressurized air blowing
- Tunneling, excavating, or earth moving

At the ECABC Vancouver Chapter Meeting on February 21st, 2017 Lyth gave a presentation on silica risk prevention and a new online app developed jointly by the BCCSA, UBC, WorkSafeBC and employers.

Jeff Lyth said, “In 2013 WorkSafeBC began to create a new section on silica in Part 6 of the Regulation. As with all hazardous substances, employers are expected to do a walk around survey and if they saw an area where silica was present they had to then test the level of exposure. New exposure limits are almost at the level of scientific detection and with low regulatory tolerance, many situations force a test.

This is a real hurdle for construction as work tasks and site conditions change rapidly, and sampling requires specialized personnel and about a week’s time to get results, so it is not ideal. Because of this, enforcement focused on control of silica over the last two decades, rather than the measurement of it.”

He points out, “With the new regulations and exposure limits, the challenge of the sampling requirement for construction was considered again. There is a clause that says employers can rely on sampling data from equivalent work operations and they do not have to sample all situations. As it turned out there was not a lot of data available, so Dr. Hugh Davies and his team at UBC did research on data they captured, from online, employers and other sources. They evaluated it, quality controlled it and now we have a growing pool of data that can be used in the online app.”

The silica control tool (www.silicacontroltool.com) is an online application that works in 3 steps. The employer enters a description of the job situation and what work is being done. Lyth adds, “The app tells us the exposure level, then asks how the silica dust will be controlled. For example, using water-spray when cutting concrete. With that, the app then tells us how much that choice of control reduces exposure and if it is sufficient. If existing data indicates the exposure is still above the allowable limit, the app will tell the user that respiratory protection is required.” In the end, the tool summarizes the results and creates a sample Exposure Control Plan.

“The silica control tool is like a framework to gather and share data on silica exposures and on the effectiveness of various controls, so if there is an unusual situation, contractors will likely be required to conduct sampling, but they are invited to submit their test data so the app’s ‘intelligence’ will grow over time,” said Lyth. “The app is not a ‘get out of jail free card’ or ‘automatic compliance’. Employers are still required to be duly diligent in training their workers, ensuring their work process remains within the parameters they entered, and in applying the control methods effectively.

The app will be housed in a silica information based website and there will be a soft-launch of it within a month. Employers can access the site but must register with BCCSA and sign up for an account and request access for users in their company.



ECABC Tendering Best Practices:

A project in progress...

The ECABC Best Practices Task Force is represented by these companies:

Ampac Electric



Canem Systems



Powering Business Worldwide

Eaton Electrical
Canadian Operations



Ecol Electric



Elec-Tech Sales Ltd.



Elworthy Electric



Guillevin International



Houle Electric Ltd.



Mott Electric GP.



SLS Group Industries Inc.



Southwire Canada



Trotter & Morton
Group of Companies

Trotter & Morton



Villa Electric (1980) Ltd.



Wesco Distribution CDA LLP.

Here are the 10 Tendering Best Practices discussed at the meeting:

Best Practice #1: ECA contractors to increase their success rate when tendering projects.

Best Practice #2: Integrate vendors at bidding stage.

Best Practice #3: ECA members will provide open communications with suppliers, distributors and manufacturers to eliminate last minute quotation submissions.

Best Practice #4: ECA members will adhere to specifications presented at time of tender.

Best Practice #5: ECA members will honour the supply chain process.

Best Practice #6: Increase the trust during the tendering process between all parties.

Best Practice #7: ECA members should work together to reduce the practice of owners supplying material.

Best Practice #8: Limit the practice of post-tender negotiations between contractors and vendors.

Best Practice #9: ECABC members will investigate and educate themselves on expanded project delivery methods.

Best Practice #10: Develop a formal pre-construction planning system.

From this list, members ranked each point in order of importance. The top three are:

Increase trust, provide open communications between parties, and working together to reduce the practice of owners supplying materials.

The Best Practices Task Force met on March 21, 2017 to discuss these points and determine how each can be achieved. The next step will be to present their recommendations at the October 24, 2017 Vancouver Chapter Meeting, and hold round table discussions on the next three most voted-upon best practices: integrate vendors at bidding stage, specification practices and limit the practice of post-tender negotiations between contractors and vendors. All Chapter members are invited to attend this important meeting.



The voice of the electrical industry in BC since 1952.



On March 31, 2017 ECABC's Subcontract legal advisor Dan Leduc held a seminar entitled "Contractual Risks" at the Pan Pacific Vancouver. The audience included members of both ECABC and MCABC, and 31 people attended.

Sparky's Shorts:

- Experience is what you get when your plans don't go as planned!
- Sparky's great at multi-tasking. He can waste time, be unproductive and check Facebook all at once!
- Success is ultimately about spending your life happily in your own way.

Advocacy

Women in Trades: Moving towards 20% by 2020

Wednesday March 8, 2017 was International Women's Day. Each year the day celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women. More women are attracted into the trades, however there is still an overwhelming imbalance between the sexes. Women make up just 10% of the entire skilled trades workforce in BC. In the electrical trades women covered by ECABC/IBEW 213 collective agreements is up to 8.75%.

The Canadian Apprenticeship Forum's Quest for Balance initiative to increase the percentage of women at the apprenticeship level to 20% for women by 2020 is off to a strong start in 2017. On March 7th ECABC President Deborah Cahill participated in a constative interview for their Blue Sky Initiative, which focuses on women in the electrical trades. As a member of the panel she attended a full day session on March 29, 2017.

The defined objectives of the Blue Sky dialogue are:

- To find out what industry needs to provide women with full access to the electrical trades;
- To assess perceptions regarding the current status of the participation of women in the electrical trades;
- To explore the barriers, attitudes and challenges that are preventing increased participation by women in the electrical trades;
- To encourage out-of-the-box, big sky thinking to identify a practical vision; and,
- To consider the steps necessary to create an environment where women are fully empowered to participate.



"Hello ECABC,
Frances speaking..."

Frances Andrew,
ECABC's Administrative Receptionist

Subcontract Program: ECABC and MCABC working together

(The following includes excerpts from an article written by Stephen Murdoch in *The Western Journal of Mechanical, Piping & Plumbing Contracting*, March 2017.)

The ECABC started the Subcontract Program in 2011, as an initiative to help educate electrical contractors when entering into subcontracts with general contractors. In May of 2016, the Mechanical Contractors Association of BC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ECABC to evaluate the merits of pursuing a relationship for equal partnership on the Subcontract Program. "The program was originally created to answer the concerns of electrical contractors; however, as we worked through onerous clauses with our lawyer we realized our efforts would benefit all trades," said Deborah Cahill, ECABC President. "We presented our work and goals to MCABC and they joined us to help develop the program to benefit their members as well."

Vice President of Davidson Bros. Mechanical Contractors, Wayne Davidson, believes it is important that mechanical contractors protect themselves. "As a collective group, we need to make a concerted effort to read all clauses line by line and ensure there is nothing onerous in the contract. The contract is something you want to deal with up front and not wait until the job has begun. It's in everyone's best interest to draft a contract that is fair to all involved parties," Davidson explained.

The ECABC - MCABC Subcontract Committee's mandate has been to collaboratively combine forces to create a useful tool for their members. This includes easy access to legal contract information and an easy understanding of onerous clauses. Members have had access to the program free of charge as part of their membership fees.

Robert Lashin, President of Houle Electric, like Davidson, feels mechanical contractors are being treated unfairly. "You can add mechanical contractors to the growing list of trade contractors that are being impacted financially. Major purchasers of construction are demanding cost certainty on their projects. Risks are being downloaded that cannot be managed by the prime contractor. Prime contractors, in turn, are mitigating these risks by passing these unreasonable contract conditions to their trade contractors. It has always been a fundamental principle of sound business practice to accept only those risks in which you can reasonably manage. Accepting risks you cannot manage will eventually lead to financial losses that can be catastrophic," Lashin explained.

The Subcontract Program helps ECABC members mitigate the risks inherent in subcontracting, including:

- The identification and explanation of onerous clauses, as reviewed by a lawyer
- Suggested legal language revisions, as recommended by a lawyer
- Printable PDF documents containing aforementioned contracts and language revisions available for your company's reference
- Permission to submit lawyer-recommended legal revisions as part of your tender
- A checklist of conditions requiring attention in tender and contract documents
- Insurance recommendations: Coverage that should be Included on an Electrical Contractor's Insurance Program
- Prime Contractor resources: Fulfilling Your Health and Safety Obligations

Visit [ECABC's YouTube Channel](#) for more on the Subcontract Program.

2017 Canada-BC Job Grant (CJG): Intake dates announced:



Starting May 1, 2017 The Canada-B.C. Job Grant (CJG) will start accepting applications for all streams of training between September 1 and December 31, 2017, using the new CJG online system. Previously applicants were able to complete the application via a PDF form, however they have just adjusted the process so applications are now completed online.

Employers who wish to apply for the grant will be able to access the system with their [BCeID](#), create an organizational profile and draft applications for training for Intake 2. Employers can also nominate our CGJ contact, Tammy Favaro, as a representative and she can assist to complete the application on their behalf, or review the details before submission. (see contact info below)

The Canada-B.C. Job Grant (CJG) is an employer-driven, cost-sharing program that helps employers invest in training for their current or future employees. The CJG assists eligible employers to offset the cost of training up to a maximum of \$10,000 per participant per fiscal year. The employer contributes at least one-third to the cost of training. The employer must have a job for the participant at the end of training.

(continued next page)

**2017 Canada-BC Job Grant (CJG):
Intake dates announced: (continued)**

ECABC Members can apply for CJG training with start dates corresponding to THREE INTAKE DATES. The application window will remain open until subscription targets have been met.

Intake 2:	Training Start Dates:
May 1 – June 30, 2017	Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2017
Intake 3:	Training Start Dates:
Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2017	Jan. 1 – March 31, 2018

Need help with your application?

Contact Tammy Favaro, Grant Facilitator
(778) 578-4271

info@canadabcjobgrant.com
www.canadabcjobgrant.com

ECABC Education Coordinator:

Siobhan Ashton: 604.294.4123
education@eca.bc.ca



Employee Benefit Consultants

ECABC Members have a group purchasing power advantage with bClear benefits.

bClear benefits' consultants have over 45 years experience helping many construction industry companies across Canada. They will walk your team members through a needs analysis; sign up, claiming and special situations.

Including:

- **Extended health and dental coverage**
- **Vision care**
- **Life insurance**
- **Accidental death and dismemberment**
- **Short and long term disability insurance**
- **Travel insurance**
- **Critical illness insurance**
- **Health spending accounts and more**

If you would like more information on employee benefits, please call Colleen Cadez:
(604) 296-3255 ccadez@bclearbenefits.ca

Training & Education



ECABC Members save up to 27% on training fees and up to 50% on publications.

Publications Listings:

- **Codebooks: Hardcopy or PDF** (\$155)
- **Handbooks: Hardcopy or PDF** (\$115)
- **Interactive Codebooks: Available for Apple (iOS) and Android Devices, for desktop, or to view through any web browser** (\$259)
- **Seismic Manual: Hardcopy or PDF** (Members: \$100; Non-Members: \$200)
- **NECA Manual of Labor Units** (\$210)

ECABC Courses:

- **May 3rd: Tech Talk, topic TBA** (BCIT, Burnaby)
- **May 11th – 13th: EPS II** (Accent Inns, Burnaby)
- **May 17th: Strategic Thinking: "Achieve Extraordinary Results"** (VRCA, Vancouver)
- **Ongoing: Online ESTS Z462 Arc Flash & Shock Training**
- **Ongoing:** Special pricing for public WorkSafeBC Occupational First Aid Level 1 sessions: ECABC Members pay only \$80 for any of Trauma Tech's public sessions. Schedule at: www.traumatech.com. Members must register by telephone. Call 604.662.7740 and request ECABC member pricing.
- **Health & Safety Manual Workshop Orientations available based on demand**

ECABC Members save 15% on training by OOSHEW.org

OOSHEW is a new ECABC Member offering a series of hands-on Workplace Training Courses including Lockout Tagout, Respiratory Protection and Equipment Operator Training.

For more information:

ECABC Education Coordinator:
Siobhan Ashton: (604) 294-4123 education@eca.bc.ca



The voice of the electrical industry in BC since 1952.