

Good Afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Welcome to the 3rd Annual Licensing General Meeting of the Electrical Contractors Registration Agency of the Electrical Safety Authority.

I would ask the Directors to please stand and be recognized when I introduce them.

Here with us today are:

Two members representing electrical contractors from the Ontario Electrical League – (OEL)

Rick Charron

Dave Ackison

Two members representing electrical contractors from the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario (ECAO) –

John Salmon and myself –

Glenn Carr.

Two members representing the Ontario municipalities from the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO)

Susan Jones – City of Ottawa

Jamie Hinton – City of Mississauga

One member representing the Utility Contractors Association of Ontario (UCAO) –

Namby Vithiananthan

Two members from the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)

Scott Saint

Dave Heron

ECRA Mandate

Is to seek feedback, monitor, review and provide advise and recommendations of ECRA to the Electrical Safety Authority Board of Directors, on matters related to licensing, examination, registration and certification of persons or businesses, for different types of electrical work throughout the province of Ontario. ECRA represents the interests of all electrical contractors, master electricians, consumers and municipalities in the province of Ontario.

ECRA is to identify and make recommendations to the Regulatory Affairs Committee of the ESA Board, to address problems or issues encountered by the public consumers, electrical contractors, master electricians, applicants, municipalities, government or other stakeholders associated with implementation, application and enforcement of the requirements.

ECRA is to identify and make recommendations to the Regulatory Affairs Committee of the ESA Board that would continue to improve the administration, application and enforcement of licensing, increase and improve safety and consumer protection, enhance the effectiveness of the industry and encourage industry to responsibly enhance electrical safety.

In the past three years, ECRA has had a very successful start and a great deal has been accomplished. Registration in ECRA/ESA has far exceeded the original expectation. Today we have licensed in excess of 6800 electrical contractors and 8000 master electricians.

The registrar's office has done an excellent job in processing these applications and issuing the appropriate licences.

ECRA has reached one of its major goals of being a self-funding system.

Some of the major accomplishments by the ECRA Board include a recommended change to the Licensing Regulation that will include the trade of PowerLine Technician as a qualification for meeting the Master Electrician Licence requirements. This will assist the High Voltage, Pole Line, Substation, Utility and LDS contracting industry in meeting the master electrician licensing requirements.

This recommendation is presently before ESA's Regulatory Affairs Committee for further submission to ESA's Board and then ultimately to the provincial Government.

We are currently in the process of obtaining the ME Certification mark and we encourage our Master Electrician Licence holders to begin using the "ME" initials after their names to display the professional designation they have achieved. The more it is used among our licensed Master Electricians, the more it will be recognized.

The Master Examining Board, a sub-committee of the ECRA Board, has been very busy during the past two years in revising the Pre-Master Electrician Course material to align with the new 24th Edition of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code and to ensure the changes made to relevant regulations and legislation were included. The Master Examining Board has worked diligently to balance the course material as it relates to code, health and safety and business practices.

While licensing enforcement has been underway for a couple of years, we've now moved to make enforcement activities more visible by posting all prosecutions of persons found to be working without the appropriate ECRA/ESA license on www.esaecra.info – website.

Work is also underway to develop Guidelines for the Director and Review Panel to give due consideration, when dealing with issues relating to situations where there is an immediate threat to public safety.

The second phase of a successful consumer awareness campaign wrapped up this past April, which included mixed media such as public service announcements and radio ads, television spots on local cable shows and several mat stories printed in local and community newspapers to get the message across to the general public to “Plug In Safely”. You may have heard the radio ads which informed that “it is now the law in Ontario” and the public service announcement encouraging the public to “Hire a licensed Electrical Contractor” which were aired throughout Ontario.

A highlight of this safety information campaign was TV personality Mike Holmes and a licensed electrical contractor assisting ESA in the production of a video news release which was issued across Ontario to coincide the Fire Prevention week. The third phase of the consumer Awareness Campaign kicked off on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, which will continue to encourage the public to “Plug In Safely” by hiring licensed Electrical Contractors through radio, television and newspapers throughout Ontario.

The year 2011 is fast approaching and there are still a number of Provisional Electrical Contractors who will be required to comply with the Master electrician licensing requirements, which may include passing the Master Electrician examination and designating a Master Electrician to their companies. If you are one of these Provisional Licence holders, we encourage you to act quickly in meeting the Master Electrician requirements and submit your Electrical Contractor licence application to the Customer Service Centre.

After the last Annual Licensing General Meeting of ECRA/ESA, it was decided to hold this ECRA Annual Licensing General Meeting here in Mississauga (the Toronto area) as this location would allow the majority of licensed electrical contractors and master electricians the opportunity to attend. In addition, a second meeting will be held in Ottawa on October 22, 2009, with a meeting to be scheduled in Windsor in 2010.

Singer and Watts Report

Electrical Safety Authority engaged the services of Singer and Watts, a management consulting firm, to a report on the Electrical Safety Authority stakeholder engagement processes and mechanisms within the current legislative regulatory framework set by the provincial government. The Report from Singer and Watts made four recommendations dealing directly with ECRA. The complete Report, prepared by Singer and Watts, along with their recommendations, can be viewed on the ESA Website and it is recommended that each licensing member take the time to review this Report.

On behalf of the ECRA Board, I would like to thank each and every one of you for joining us this afternoon. The Electrical Safety Authority is one of the many organizations responsible to the public of Ontario for electrical safety. We, as licensed electrical contractors and master electricians, must also do our part to promote electrical safety. We must adhere to safe work practices and create a culture that communicates and supports the goal of ESA of an Ontario – free of electrical fatalities and serious injury, damage or loss.

At this time, I would like to call upon Lucy Impera, Registrar of Licensing and Certification to provide the Registrar's Report. Thank you.