



# Action

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## IN THIS ISSUE

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <a href="#">CECA/NECA Connection</a> .....  | 1 |
| <a href="#">Electri' International Selects 2010 Research Proposals</a> .....                    | 1 |
| <a href="#">NECA Convention Goes to Boston</a> .....  | 2 |
| <a href="#">NETCO Launches National Solar Strategy on Training Standards</a> .....              | 2 |
| <a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Canadian Meeting of Training Directors/Coordinators</a> ..... | 3 |
| <a href="#">CECA Develops Canadian Electrical Installation Standards</a> .....                  | 3 |
| <a href="#">Electronic Downloads Available on CECA Website Soon</a> .....                       | 3 |
| <a href="#">NTCCC Holds Seminar on Guide to CCA1 - Subcontract</a> .....                        | 3 |
| <a href="#">Building Information Modeling Update</a> .....                                      | 4 |
| <a href="#">Government Relations Update</a> .....   | 4 |
| <a href="#">CCA Trade Contractors Committee Redevelops Guide 2000</a> .....                     | 5 |
| <a href="#">Federated Now Provides Bid and Performance Bonding</a> .....                        | 5 |
| <a href="#">CECA Creates Provincial/Territorial Licensing Directory</a> .....                   | 5 |

## CECA/NECA CONNECTION

One of our most rewarding affiliations is with the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) in the U.S.A. CECA is the first, and foremost, International Chapter of NECA and holds exclusive Canadian distribution rights for NECA documents, courses, manuals and seminars.

Recent free publication releases include:

- *Security: Today's Technology Expands Your Options*
- *An Energy Audit of Your Building Will Outline Savings Options*

Visit the CECA website for the complete line of NECA publications available and take advantage of the member savings today.

## ELECTRI' INTERNATIONAL SELECTS 2010 RESEARCH PROPOSALS

CECA is a founding member of NECA's ELECTRI International – The Foundation for Electrical Construction - and has a permanent seat on the ELECTRI Council. The Council's focus is to fund, conduct, coordinate, and monitor the industry's most critical research and to commission and deliver to the industry, exemplary management education and supervisory training programs.

At its January meeting, ELECTRI Council members selected six projects to launch in 2010:

- BIM Training & Implementation Course for Electrical Contractors
- Cost-Benefit of De-Energizing Line Work
- Smart Transmission and Distribution Grids: An Emerging Business Opportunity for Electrical Contractors

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- Small Contractor Electrical Foreman Training Program
- Effectiveness of Team Communication and Leadership Training, and
- Benefits Resulting from Native File Sharing During Electrical Cost Estimating and Bidding.

Completed research reports may be purchased from the CECA website and are listed under "Foundation" on the Publications pages.

## NECA CONVENTION GOES TO BOSTON



Mark your calendar now! Plan to attend the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) Convention and NECA Show in Boston from October 2–5, 2010.

Budget to bring your key people and educate your staff in today's electrical industry. NECA promises to give you the educational tools that you need to effectively compete in this work environment.

Revolutionary Power. Renewable Solutions.

Visit [www.necaconvention.org](http://www.necaconvention.org) for details.

## NETCO LAUNCHES NATIONAL SOLAR STRATEGY ON TRAINING STANDARDS

The National Electrical Trade Council (NETCO)—a CECA-IBEW joint venture—recently launched a *National Solar Photovoltaics (PV) Strategy* and recruited a blue-chip *Solar PV Committee* to support implementation. It responds to the electrical industry's desire for a nationally-coordinated approach to workforce skills development, as well as public policy and regulatory issues, associated with a projected increase in demand for renewable energy sources.

The first step in the *National Solar PV Strategy* is to establish national standards for PV installation that focus exclusively on the additional competencies required by

electricians. The competencies related to PV installation will overlay those outlined in The Red Seal Program's *National Occupational Analysis for Construction Electrician (2008)*. This reinforces the electrical industry's message that PV installation should only be performed by qualified electricians to protect safety. The *Solar PV Committee* had its first national standards development meeting in Toronto on January 26-27, 2010. Industry representatives are: Dave Cribb, IBEW, Local 586; John Salmon, A.R. Milne Electric Ltd.; Randall Benson, Electrical Industry Training Centre of Alberta; Garry Fitzpatrick, Fitzpatrick Electrical Contractor Inc.; Robert Nelson, Canadian Standards Association; Susan Boorman, Canadian Electrical Contractors Association; Marty Riesberg, National Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee for the Electrical Industry; Andy Cleven, Electrical Joint Training Committee (IBEW, Local 213 & ECABC); Todd Stafford, National Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee for the Electrical Industry; Michael Boersma, Net Electric Ltd.; Bill Daniels, IBEW, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Canada; Peter Olders, IBEW-Construction Council of Ontario; Jason Campbell, Black & McDonald Ltd.; Ted Olechna, Electrical Safety Authority; and, Carol MacLeod, NETCO Occupational Analyst/Facilitator.



NETCO representatives gather to discuss a national strategy on solar training standards.

The national standards will then be used as a blueprint to articulate a National Solar PV Training Plan for Electricians and to make high-quality PV training resources available in Canada. In November 2009 NETCO concluded an agreement with the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (NJATC) for the Electrical Industry in the United States to jointly adapt the NJATC's *PV Systems* textbook and *PV Systems Student Workbook* to the Canadian context. NETCO will become the Canadian distributor of these important training resources. NETCO's *National Solar PV Strategy* will also drive a lobbying initiative to influence government policies that impact demand for Solar PV installation and regulatory frameworks that link to qualification and inspection interests.

### **3RD ANNUAL CANADIAN MEETING OF TRAINING DIRECTORS/COORDINATORS**

NETCO's Annual Training Directors/Coordinators meeting provides an opportunity for IBEW's, JATC's & JAC's in Canada to share their knowledge and experiences on a national basis. This enables participants to provide better training for their members and enhance their market share in the construction industry. NETCO will hold its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Training Directors/Coordinators Meeting on August 22, 2010 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Details coming soon...

### **CECA DEVELOPS CANADIAN ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION STANDARDS**

CECA is pleased to announce the development of the Canadian Electrical Installation Standards (CEIS) which will provide the Canadian electrical construction industry with best practices that reference Canadian codes and standards. The CEIS, when followed, will provide minimum standards of workmanship and quality methods for all bidders to follow when pricing and competing for projects and will provide a baseline by which all potential contracts are awarded, thus

promoting fairness in competitive bidding and minimum quality requirements.

The CEIS will be developed in partnership with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) to "Canadianize" the National Electrical Installation Standards (NEIS) produced by NECA. The development of Canadian versions of these documents will assist to ensure that best practices can be applied effectively for the benefit of contractors, engineers, architects, builders and Canadians in general. These best practices within the context of the CEIS will promote a more consistent and secure bidding process as well as structured quality requirements long before a project starts.

The standards are expected to take twelve to fifteen months to complete. CECA will provide updates on the progress and notify members when the CEIS are completed and available for purchase. CECA will be assembling volunteers from across Canada to provide subject matter expertise for support in the development of the CEIS. Please contact Lucy Roberts at [lroberts@ceca.org](mailto:lroberts@ceca.org) with an expression of interest to assist in the development of these standards.

### **ELECTRONIC DOWNLOADS AVAILABLE ON CECA WEBSITE SOON**

CECA is pleased to announce that all electronic publications will soon be available for convenient download. Members will need to obtain their usernames and passwords to purchase at member prices. Contact Lucy Roberts at 416.675.3226 X312 or [lroberts@ceca.org](mailto:lroberts@ceca.org).

### **NTCCC HOLDS SEMINAR ON GUIDE TO CCA1 - SUBCONTRACT**



The National Trade Contractors Coalition held its seminar on the Guide to the CCA1 – Subcontract, January 19, 2010 in

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Toronto. Over 60 participants heard from the guide's author, Geza Banfai, Heenan Blaikie LLP, on the top three excuses for not treating the written contract seriously and six very good reasons why you should.

Here's what the participants had to say:

*"Material/handout received is very informative and extremely detailed and provides a good explanation of the CCA1 contract."*

*"Insights into mediation and lien options were helpful."*

*"Excellent in providing links to additional resources for information and answers to questions."*



*Geza Banfai, Heenan Blaikie LLP, advises the attendees at the NTCCC Guide to CCA1-Subcontract seminar.*

Details on future dates and locations across Canada are coming soon...

## **BUILDING INFORMATION MODELING UPDATE**

Before updating activity in Building Information Modeling (BIM), a practical definition might be helpful. BIM is a dynamic building modeling software which creates a three dimensional

design of a building. The "power" which BIM affords to our industry is that it can be utilized throughout the buildings lifecycle (i.e. Design→Tender→Construction→Use).

In the United States NECA has been, and continues to be, actively involved in BIM development (see most recent news at <http://www.necanet.org/publications/newsletter/index.cfm?fa=showIssue&issuelid=1125>), as well as BIM training for electrical contractors (see <http://www.electri.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=viewLatestNews&articleID=4252>).

Initiatives in Canada include:

- The formation of the "BIM Council" (see [www.canbim.com](http://www.canbim.com)).
- Collaboration between CECA and MCAC to bring BIM education and software training seminars to its members.
- Upcoming "BIM Forum" (to be held on March 25-26, 2010 at the St. Andrews Club and Conference Centre, Toronto) which will touch upon BIM topics, such as:
  1. Best Practices
  2. Contractual Implications
  3. BIM for Property & Facility Management
  4. Canadian Requirements, Guidelines, Standards etc.

## **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE**

CECA, through its membership in the NTCCC, has been active in lobbying for "Prompt Payment Legislation", first at Parliament Hill in Ottawa and most recently at Queen's Park in Toronto. The results have been most favourable. A proposed appendix to Public Works & Government Services Canada (PWGSC) contracts, dealing with prompt payment provisions, is being considered by the Federal Government. National trade contractor association representatives also received a good reception from the Ontario Government on Ontario's *Construction Lien Act* reform. For further details on these initiatives see [www.ntccc.ca](http://www.ntccc.ca).

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## CCA TRADE CONTRACTORS COMMITTEE REDEVELOPS GUIDE 2000



CECA is an affiliate member of CCA's Trade Contractor Council and provides input into many CCA activities and programs. Some of these include: Standard Practices,

Contract Documents, Taxation and Contractor Training. A Task Force appointed by the Council aims to finalize the redeveloped *Trade Contractors Guide and Checklist to Construction Contracts* by March. The Guide will then be submitted to CCA Councils and Committees for review and then to the CCA Board for approval in June.

The purpose of this Guide is to alert trade contractors of certain clauses which frequently appear in construction contract or subcontract documents which can adversely affect the rights and obligations of the trade contractor. This document is a guide only and is not intended as a comprehensive listing of all problem clauses which might be encountered nor is it intended to form part of any contract or subcontract. It is hoped that by highlighting some of these potential problem areas, contractors will be in a better position to identify them and assess their importance before bidding or signing contracts and subcontracts.

## FEDERATED NOW PROVIDES BID AND PERFORMANCE BONDING

Great News for CECA Members! Federated Insurance, through their brokerage arm, can now provide Contractor Bid and Performance Bonding underwritten by Travelers Guarantee Insurance, a leading supplier of Professional Liability programs for the Construction Industry? For more information on this or any of their exclusive offers for Electrical Contractors, contact your Risk Services Coordinator or one of their local offices at:

Winnipeg: 204.786-6431 or 1.800.665.1934

Burnaby: 604.294.2337 or 1.800.939.7788  
Calgary: 403.254.8500 or 1.800.342.9157  
Edmonton: 780.435.3064 or 1.800.661.8617  
Saskatchewan: 306.244.4131 or 1.866.291.0523  
London: 519.473.5610 or 1.800.461.3117  
Mississauga: 905.507.2777 or 1.800.387.5953  
Maritimes: 506.204.1845 or 1.800.461.3117

Not available in Quebec.

## CECA CREATES PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL LICENSING DIRECTORY

CECA has developed a web-based resource which allows you to easily access information, through links and points of contact, in each Canadian province and territory relating specifically to electrical licensing requirements, requirements to conduct business, governing legislation/regulations, and other related web-sites and resources.

Visit <http://www.ceca.org/licensing/index.html> and simply click on a province or territory on the locator map and you will be immediately linked to headings relating to the areas cited above. Click on the heading which describes the specific information (highlighted in blue) that you wish to access. The majority of the information provided through the links is available in both official languages.

The intention of this directory is to provide CECA members with a "Roadmap" for accessing electrical licensing and business requirements across the country. For updates/changes to information and/or requirements please consult with the provincial/territorial "Point of Contact(s)" provided. They are best suited to ensure the accuracy of licensing and business requirements.

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