

ECAO

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO**

News

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NETWORK CABLING SPECIALIST C of Q – AVAILABLE APRIL 7

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has announced that the exam of the Network Cabling Specialist Certificate of Qualification will be available as of April 7, 2003. The trade of Network Cabling Specialist (631A) was made a certified trade in Ontario under the Apprenticeship and Certification Act (ACA), effective January 1, 2001, but has lacked this exam until now. Following upon the recommendation of the Industry Committee, an Ontario only exam has been developed and validated by trade practitioners. The exam will be available in MTCU's field offices as of Monday, April 7th, 2003.

The exam consists of 100 questions divided among the following sections:

- Plan and prepare for installation
- Perform cable installations
- Terminate and splice cables
- Perform labeling, testing and documentation
- Perform internetworking installation
- Troubleshoot cable system and hardware

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The pass mark is 70%.

Those wishing to challenge the exam and become certified Network Cabling Specialists must qualify by providing proof of on-the-job training and experience. As with other certified trades, applicants must provide proof of either of the following:

An Ontario Certificate of Apprenticeship as a Network Cabling Specialist.

Proof of 4500 hours of on-the-job training. Letters from employers or unions written on letterhead, describing the applicant's competencies in the trade and the number of years of trade experience.

For further information on the Network Cabling Specialist training, contact Gary Lehman at the ECAO offices or Peter Olders at the Ontario Communications Training Program (416-674-6940 ext. 25). For information on the C of Q exam in your area contact your local office of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

ECAO is a member of the WSIB Return-to-Work/Labour Market Re-entry (RTW/LMR) Advisory Panel and we are seeking contractor input on issues surrounding the use of the WSIB Functional Abilities Form which is completed by health care practitioners. Also, any concerns on managing return-to-work, problems, best practices, questions, etc., contact Gary Robertson at the ECAO offices (416-675-3226 ext. 316 or grobertson@ecao.org).

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP RATIFIED

After lengthy negotiations, an agreement on the establishment of a pre-apprentice program for the electrical trade has been ratified by the ETBA and the IBEW/CCO and is live as of March 31.

The concept of pre-apprenticeship was first agreed to at the conclusion of negotiations over the issues arising from Bill 69 in October 2001. At that time it was supposed to be implemented to coincide with the start of the new contract on May 1, 2002. This, however, proved elusive for a number of reasons – not the least of which was the necessity to modify legislation to allow for pre-apprentices in a certified compulsory trade. This was accomplished and negotiations continued until both parties confirmed ratification of the agreement March 27, 2003.

Under the agreement, the local area ETBA rep and Business Manager are required to:

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- Confirm total wage package amounts and deductions/benefits for periods ending April 30, 2003 and April 30, 2004.
- Establish/confirm an initial list of “union only jobs” and a timetable for review.
- Establish sectors/markets where pre-apprentices may perform a scope of work broader than material handling.

For further information on the pre-apprentice program, contact your local ECA or ETBA representative.

ONTARIO ANNOUNCES APPRENTICESHIP TAX CREDIT

In it's latest budget, the Ontario government has proposed to introduce a tax credit to encourage employers to hire apprentices. Under the proposal, corporations and unincorporated businesses in Ontario would be eligible for a 10 per cent refundable tax credit for eligible expenditures in respect of apprentices in a qualifying skilled trade. The tax credit would be increased to 15 per cent for businesses with total payroll costs of not more than \$400,000. An employer would be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$250 per month per apprentice to a maximum of \$6,000 over a 24-month employment period.

Eligible expenditures would be salaries and wages paid after March 27, 2003 to an apprentice. Electrical and Network Cabling Specialist apprentices qualify for the credit.

These changes will take effect when the budget has been passed.

The text of the proposed tax credit can be found at the Ontario government's budget website <http://www.ontfinance1.com/bud03e/paperc.htm> under the heading “Budget Paper C: Choosing Prosperity, Competitiveness and Job Creation”.

CCA TO REVISE TENDERING PRACTICES GUIDE

The Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC) is seeking public review and comment on its proposed new CCDC23 – A Guide to Calling Bids and Awarding Contracts. This Guide has not been updated since 1982.

CCDC23 has become the industry standard on recommended best practices in this area. The proposed new edition has significant new material. Comments will be received until May 23, 2003.

To view the draft go to the CCDC's website at www.ccdc.org and click on the button entitled "Public Review of CCDC23".

Please send any comments to ECAO (fax: 416-675-7736 or groberson@ecao.org).

WSIB ANNOUNCES SARS POLICY

As a service industry that works in hospital settings, there has been some concern about workers contracting Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). SARS is still a relatively rare condition that has led to 6 deaths in Ontario as of April 1. Of the 124 cases known in Ontario at the time of writing, 4 contracted the disease through travel, and the remaining 120 have been linked to an initial group of people in Scarborough, largely at Scarborough Grace Hospital. Public health authorities are now working to contain the outbreak.

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) has ruled that, "Workers with symptoms of SARS who were infected in the course of their employment may be entitled to the usual benefits and services available under the Act. As in all disease claims, their entitlement is decided on a case by case basis.

The Act does not provide coverage for workers who are symptom free, even when quarantined or sent home on a precautionary basis. However, such workers may be entitled to benefits and services if they develop symptoms or an illness compatible with their occupational exposure."

2003 CONFERENCE IN ST. JOHN'S

From the initial response, it looks like the CECA conference in St. John's, Newfoundland, co-hosted by ECAO and the electrical contractors of Newfoundland, is going to be very well attended.

This year's theme is "A Sea of Change" and an exciting array of speakers has been arranged to address the issues of change that affect all contractors.

Joe Caruso, our keynote speaker, battled cancer when he was just 18 years old. Surviving that ordeal has given him a perspective on how change effects us all and hard-won advice on embracing change and making it work in our favour.

As president and chief operating officer of Bell Mobility, Michael Neuman is well versed in the impact of communications technology on business today.

Will (Korky) Koroluk has written a weekly column in the Daily Commercial News on computers and the Internet, as it relates to construction, since 1999. This area is in its infancy and growing by leaps and

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bounds, and Mr. Koroluk has devoted his time to sorting the wheat from the chaff in this column and on his new website, <http://www.techimpact.ca> and his techTALK newsletter.

Space is going quickly. If you have not received one, registration forms can be downloaded from the ECAO and CECA websites (www.ecao.org and www.ceca.org) or call the ECAO offices. The websites also provide the most up-to-date program information.

FROM THE BOARD

In the Labour Relations report to the ECAO Board of Directors on March 20, Peter Bryant reported that the Ontario Labour Relations Board had ruled that Local Union 105 (Hamilton) did not have standing to pursue its grievance against a Toronto contractor because it did not have a legal interest in the case, even though the work was being done in Hamilton.

In the grievance, LU 105 alleged that the contractor did not enforce the travel time provisions of the Toronto local area appendix for Toronto workers working in Hamilton.

Also, the Board welcomed four companies from the Ottawa area as Group Members. The four companies were:

- J.R. Ferguson Electric Ltd.
- Charles Leclair Electric
- Bridlewood Electric Ltd.
- The Plan Group

FOR SALE

4 SECTION DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

4000 AMPERE CU 600/347 VOLT

Wireway, Metering, and 2 Distribution Sections
Distribution Sections c/w 5 CJD63B400 3 Pole 400
Amp breakers, 2 CED63B100 3 Pole 100 Amp
breakers, and 2 CFD63B200 Amp breakers

\$25,550.00 O.B.O. (Plus G.S.T.)

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2 YEARS OLD

For more information, contact Joe Kurpe, K & S
Electrical Contractors,
905-544-4085 or joe@tri-mountsystems.com

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