

March Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

The ECAM Board of Directors is comprised of a cross section of Industry members; residential, industrial, commercial, urban and rural, sub-contractors, engineers and associate members. The Board meets monthly September through June and is served by standing committees, advisory councils and working groups.

Welcome Karen to the ECAM Team

Karen Cairns joins ECAM as the Workforce Development Coordinator, bringing extensive experience in learning and development, training coordination, and program administration.

Most recently, Karen served as Flight Operations Training Coordinator in the aviation industry, where she coordinated regulatory training, administered a learning and qualification management system, analyzed training data, and supported compliance and continuous improvement initiatives.

Karen has held leadership roles in training, instructional design, and customer care, with a strong track record of collaborating with stakeholders, improving workflows, and supporting organizational goals through effective learning strategies. She studied Adult & Continuing Education at the University of Manitoba and is driven by a desire to help others grow, learn and succeed through workforce development. Nothing motivates Karen more than seeing someone gain clarity, confidence, and capability through learning.

Outside of the office Karen enjoys connecting with nature, spending time with her family, her dogs and acquiring copious amounts of yarn. Welcome, Karen!

Darryl Cruickshank Award

Nominations are now open for the Darryl Cruickshank Memorial Award, which recognizes the significant contributions of industry partners to the Red Seal Program. Named in memory of Darryl Cruickshank, the award honours efforts that support apprentice completion, encourage employer participation in training the next generation of skilled tradespeople, and promote innovation and flexibility in trades training systems. Apply [HERE](#).

Planning, Property & Development - Launching More Development Permit Exemptions

Planning, Property and Development Department introduced 25 development permit exemptions in March 2024, reducing permit volumes by over 30% year over year. A second phase in September 2025 added 11 more exemptions, with early data showing another 30% reduction for the same September–December period compared to 2024. Trends suggest the changes could reduce annual volumes by up to 20% compared to 2025 levels. Five new development permit exemptions will take effect on March 2, bringing the total to 41 exemptions introduced over the past two years. Read more [HERE](#).

Welcome New Member

Welcome ACON ELECTRIC LTD. to ECAM membership. ACON Electric Ltd is a medium sized electrical contractor working throughout Manitoba and Ontario. Learn more about this new member [HERE](#).

Next Gen Wine & Wisdom - April 7

Calling all Next Gen! Join us for a panel discussion, wine tasting and dinner. Paul Shack, and Gord Whiffen, as they explore problem-solving on a major project. Using the Portage Hospital as a case study, they will share how different teams collaborated to tackle complex challenges and deliver results. Register [HERE](#).

Next Gen Billiard Tournament - April 23

Join us for some friendly competition and networking with other future leaders of the electrical industry. Registration includes drinks, appetizers and game time. Register [HERE](#).

April Trade Talk - April 6

Trade Talk with Brian Korchinski, Senior Manager at Wesco on Succession Planning. Join us from 3:30–4:30 PM at the ECAM office. Learn more [HERE](#).

Western Regional Meetings

ECAM participated in the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada (MCAC) Western Regional Meeting (WGM), held this year in Saskatoon. Dave Cook attended as the ECAM representative on the MCAC Board. Key discussions focused on Workers Compensation Board (WCB) matters and ongoing developments in apprenticeship.



Dave Cook, ECAM President

Dave Cook, born in Thompson, Manitoba, has built a career in the electrical industry since becoming a journeyman in 1995. His journey within Static Electric saw him rise from a first level apprentice to journeyman to Operations Manager to a Co-Owner and currently to the role of President.

Dave is deeply invested in the well-being of the trade and its workers. He actively participates in discussions and drives initiatives aimed at ensuring fair treatment, upholding safety standards, and fostering professional development within the electrical sector. As the ECAM Social Committee Chair, he plays a pivotal role in promoting a supportive and inclusive environment within the industry.

Outside of work, Dave's passions include spending time with his family, cooking, playing golf, and watching hockey.