



The ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS' Association of Ottawa



## Christmas Message

From

**ECA Ottawa**

**President**

**Mark Conrad**

# ECA OTTAWA NEWSWIRE

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The ECA Ottawa Newswire is the distribution hub for electrical information and communications to our members on issues related specifically to our association, our industry, and our community.

**ELECTRICAL  
CONTRACTORS'  
ASSOCIATION  
OF OTTAWA**

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## Holiday Greeting from President Mark Conrad



**Mark Conrad**  
President, ECA Ottawa

Christmas is one of the most joyous times of the year, filled with festivities, gift-giving and reflection. For business owners like us, it's a great opportunity to appreciate and recognize the dedication of our employees, the devotion of our friends and the tremendous support of our families.

Looking back over 2018, I realized just how busy this year has been. It's also been a year of transition here at ECA Ottawa. The Board of Directors has been managing the affairs of the Association for nearly two years, with the backing of both Sandra Lowther and then Michelle Carriere. With Daryl Sharkey joining the team as Executive Director in August, we are now in the process of transferring the day to day operations back to his team.

Having served on the ECA Ottawa board for a number of years, I have seen just how demanding the work of the Association can be. There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes to ensure our programs run smoothly, our projects are organized and relevant and our events are fun and memorable. I think this level of professionalism was achieved throughout the year. In addition, I would like to state that there has been a noticeable and significant improvement in our Associations working relationship with the IBEW that is very positive.

Some of the highlights that come to mind include: Hosting 2 of the largest 'all-members meetings' in recent memory. Our golf tournament was once again sold out and we were able to present a cheque for more than \$6,600 to the Dave Smith Foundation. As mentioned, we hired a new Executive Director. A new Joint Proposal was finalized with a 'no strike, no lockout' agreement and our negotiation team has been engaged in local bargaining. ECA Ottawa welcomed over 120 new apprentices in 2018, as well as, 4 new contractor members. We hosted a number of educational programs, expanded our web presence, developed new online registration for many of our programs and our Christmas gala was the largest in many years. Of course, that's just a small sample of what went on.

With the new year fast approaching, we have set the Association sights on a number of programs, services and projects. We are working out the details on a new, comprehensive educational platform. This will require input from the membership but will include; working at heights, first aid & CPR, estimating, supervisory, project management and more. We will be launching the new Stabilization Fund Process involving the ECA Ottawa office; Our website will continue to be updated including a new 'member's only' section and we will be launching a full social media platform. The ECA Ottawa staff will be engaging in a year-long membership drive and we have the consequences from Bill 47 and the winding down of the College of Trades to stickhandle as well. I would also invite you to attend our Annual General Meeting scheduled for January 22, 2019 at the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club.

I won't go through all of the projects we are involved in—there are simply too many to mention here—but I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members, the members of our executive committee, the board of directors, as well as the staff at ECA Ottawa for all their support and hard work. I look forward to working with you all of you in 2019.

From my wife Susan and my entire family, I would like to personally wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year

Mark Conrad  
President, ECA Ottawa