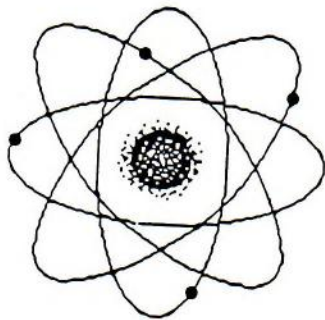




# THE INSPECTOR

DECEMBER 1989



## GENERAL

## REGULATIONS

## UNDER STUDY

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For many months now New General Regulations for the Electrical Safety Act have been under study by the Electrical Safety Advisory Committee

The proposed changes were very extensive in some technical and administrative areas and come to bear on certain provincial-municipal issues.

There was originally and has continued to be some opposition to the changes. The concern came to the agenda of the Electric Safety Advisory Board and it was decided that a special Task Force be formed to study the issues. Chris McGregor, a private engineering consultant, was named Chairman of the Committee, with Joe Laminski, of the Provincial Safety Branch, Cliff Pilkey, of Electric Contractors Association, Ivan Herejk of B. C. Hydro, and Jim Barker, Chief Electrical Inspector in Surrey as committee members.

The Task Force has held a number of meetings and has been successful in solving at least one significant problem. A number of reports have been produced by the Task Force, but many items are still outstanding.

The work of the Task Force came to an impasse and broke down because of differences between the Branch and the Municipalities. The Branch wants the municipalities to provide statistics on inspections

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## ***INSPECTORS' CHANGING ROLE***

The role of the Inspector is changing, and with each passing year, the rate of change accelerates.

No longer do they spend all their time inspecting new buildings. Now they find much of their working day is occupied with the inspection of existing buildings. This is where they find older equipment and older construction where accidents more frequently occur and where more effort needs to be

expended to ensure that every avenue is explored to try to minimize and prevent those accidents.

One of the outstanding parts of the changing role is the new computerized safety management system which enables monitoring over a wide network for violations and ignoring of rules.

To keep pace with the new direction there are a number of training courses on the go. Some of them were reported in the September issue of the 'INSPECTOR'. One course which has been run twice - "WORKING FOR RESULTS" shows Inspectors how to influence contractor performance, improve working relations so that general performances can be improved.

There is also a 'REPORT WRITING' course which teaches how better to prepare accident investigation reports; Certificates of Inspection; or a report to the Crown Counsel, in case of arson or where there has been a flagrant violation of the Safety Act. Such violations are daily becoming more common.

Fire accidents are one area where much work is required. Since the last issue of the Branch's "Electrical Safety Matters" a total of 70 fire-accident reports have been investigated by Branch/Municipal Inspectors.

Out of this concern a new course starts the last week of November -- 'FIRE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION' course, preparing inspectors in the investigation and reporting of such accidents.

There is also a new system where electrical contractors "in good standing" may make a legal declaration that the work meets the requirements of the Safety Act.

The highest priority here is elimination of hazards; the second being fire accidents; with the general aim of reducing the necessity of inspections of contractor work.

"WORKING FOR RESULTS" is a follow-up to the course called "LEADERSHIP SKILLS" which was discussed in the September issue.

The number of accidents occurring among electricians provide a challenge. It is a very different job checking houses than investigating accident occurrences and how to prevent them.

The new train of activity has been under way for more than ten years and is just now coming to fruition. Getting the industry to change is a very big step and there is always the concern that something may have been missed in the overall effort.

Illustrative of the new role is the information laid by Hugh Oliver of New Westminster, on the basis of a complain from a customer, resulting in the prosecution of a person who installed an electric air conditioner where the conductors were too small a size. This person did not hold a Certificate of Competency, nor did he meet Code requirements. He had not obtained a permit nor had he declared that the job was correct.

There have been two similar cases - one in Masset where Richard Rogers prosecuted, and at 100 Mile House (Allen Espenhain) and at Williams Lake, where Tim Lessard was the operative Inspector.

A joint meeting of Branch personnel and municipal authorities is being held the last week of November to discuss Code items, for uniformity purposes. There will be nine regional supervisors and Head Office staff.

Since safety is the first concern of the Branch, there is a certain satisfaction that the work of the Inspectors is gradually moving more into the area where more accidents and failures occur, which change will almost certainly ensure that greater safety will be provided.

### ***NOMINATIONS ANYONE?***

Alfie Pietracupa, who is in charge of nominations for offices in the Association, asks for input from the members. It is important that names be suggested for any of the offices open, i.e. President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Annual General Meeting will be held, as usual, in February (date not set yet) and nominations should be in well before that time. If you have any suggestions, phone Alfie at his office number - 521 - 3711.

## PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christmas is often a time of remembering, maybe because each remembrance is something of a gift in itself -- each one important and special to me.

This is the end of the year; of a decade. We have seen big changes in the industry in the past ten years and the promise of growth and potential for the future. It shouldn't be with regret that any of us say goodbye to the 1980s.

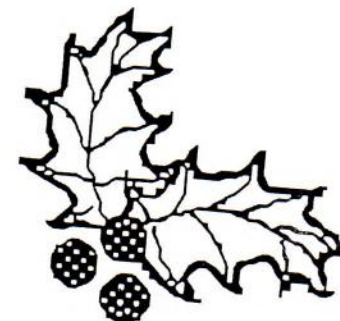
This Christmas message is also my last from the President's chair. It has been a great two years, and a real learning experience for me. I am proud of the accomplishments we have shared and am sure continued success will take the E.I.A. through the 90s.

On a personal note, I want to thank my committees and the executive for their extra efforts, time, and all those meetings!

Special recognition should go to Ted Simmons. Ted had to retire from his position recently but still found time from the sidelines to try and keep me on course.

Finally, our Editor, Evelyn, who seems to be always on top of things. Thank you.

Enjoy the Christmas festivities, and on behalf of myself and my family - our best to each of you in the New Year.

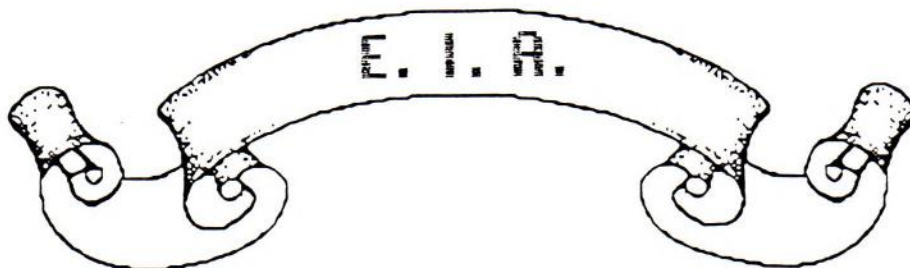


**MERRY CHRISTMAS - One and all**



*From the members of the Executive of the Electrical Inspectors Association to each and every member of the Association a most sincere wish for A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and A BRIGHT AND HAPPY NEW YEAR. May all your memories be warm ones; may you have the opportunity of visiting with family and friends, and may all your wishes and desires for a bright new beginning come true.*

*Dave Fitger.....Karl Jessen.....Rick Porcina.....Ted Simmons.... George Ward.....James Hill.....Jack Muir.. ..Gus Wendril....Rod Gray... Evelyn Fingarson*



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## ***CLIFF PILKEY AT GENERAL MEETING***

"W H M I S " was the subject matter when Cliff Pilkey, of the Electrical Contractors Association, addressed the regular October 16 meeting of the Electrical Inspectors Association.

What is WHMIS? It is "Workplace Hazardous Materials Information Service", in which Cliff has been actively engaged for quite some time now.

Regulations have recently been enacted to restrict handling and storing of the very many different kinds of hazardous materials available.

It is necessary, says Cliff, to know about hazardous materials because many of today's chemicals and other materials may threaten your safety and your health

Cliff outlined the line of responsibility, from the manufacturers and suppliers, whose job it is to classify products according to WHMIS guidelines and prepare labels and data sheets informing users of the potential dangers of

these products.; through employers who have a responsibility for getting the information to employees; to employees themselves who should be informed and concerned that the materials they are using conform to the safety guidelines, and who should learn the first aid procedures in case of poisoning, chemical burns or shock.

Pilkey provided a lively, interesting program which was frequently interrupted by interested listeners asking questions. A quantity of pamphlets was available for members.

Hazardous materials include such things as toxic chemicals, flammable liquids, dangerous gases, explosives and corrosives and all need special handling. Making the work place safer for everyone begins with making everyone aware, and the awakening of this awareness was certainly one of the things that Pilkey accomplished.

B. C. Regulations 299/88 made pursuant to the Workers' Compensation Act (Section 71(1)) and B. C. Regulations 258/88 made pursuant to the Workplace Act (Section 4(a)(d)) are available from the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia.

## **TED SIMMONS CHANGES CAREER**

The Association's very able Secretary has completely changed careers.

From his position as an inspector with the New Westminster office, he is now a full time instructor at British Columbia Institute of Technology.

Ted is involved in the Apprenticeship program, teaching five days a week. The Apprenticeship Program covers four years of study - two months of which are spent at school, the balance being in the field in actual work experience. At the end of the fourth year, there is a final examination.

Ted teaches six hours a day, to three different groups of students who have reached Level 2.

This is not the first time that Ted has been in a teacher's position. He formerly spent some time teaching Code at night school, but he says the complete change of pace is challenging and

means spending many hours, out of school, for preparation and research.

## **VINCENT YU TEACHING**

Another of the Association's active members is engaged in teaching.

Vincent Yu teaches Code at night school and has been doing so for some time. As one of his classes is on Monday evening, he finds it hard to attend the regular Association meetings.

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and rejection rates, and some other administrative matters. The Branch is asking for these things so that there may be better ability to assess electric safety delivery. The Municipalities' point of view is that they should be autonomous in the administrative areas.

Finally, through the special efforts of Roy Bartholomew, chairman of E.S.A.C. the work of the Task Force is back on track again.

When the Cabinet of the Provincial Government was re-organized on November 1st, one result was that there was a new Minister of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture, in the person of the Hon. Lyall Hanson. The new Minister is making an effort to familiarize himself with the situation and has already contacted the E.S.A.C. Task Force and requested a point of view.

WHO'S IN THE NEWS?

Friends of FRED MOORE (long-time Treasurer of the Association) will be glad to know that he has completely recovered from his bad illness and looks hale and hearty again.

\*\*\*\*

Life Member ERIC DUFF had a stroke, but he came out of it OK and is graduating from the wheel chair to walking around. Congratulations, Eric!

\*\*\*\*

It was a pleasure to many members of the Association to see FRED OTTE among us at the last meeting.

\*\*\*\*

Members will be interested to know that ART COX has acquired a truck and trailer and is enjoying the great out-of-doors.

\*\*\*\*

ALPH LITJENS, who has moved to Roberts Creek on the Sunshine Coast to live, has not forgotten his many years in the profession. He is now involved with the Open Learning Institute by teaching Code.

\*\*\*\*

DENNIS LESSARD of the New Westminster office reports that he made a brief trip to the Tokyo area, Japan to evaluate some equipment being installed here for a lumber company, to see if it would meet our Code and regulations.

The weather was not very friendly to him,, his arrival being timed for just a couple of hours after a major tornado hit, as evidenced by fallen trees and other debris. When recovery was made it was very hot and humid, so he was glad to be on his way home after only five days away.

While in Tokyo he resided at the Palace Hotel, right across the road from the Imperial Palace, and he did have the chance to ride the very famous bullet train to a spot some 200 km. north of Tokyo.

STAFF CHANGES

LEON MURRAY, who was working in Prince George as a Supervisor, accepted an Inspector's job for the Provincial Branch in Victoria.

PETE JANZEN, who used to be with the City of Burnaby and then moved to the Provincial office at Dawson Creek, has now been transferred to Penticton as an Inspector.

DON BALLARD, an Inspector in Terrace, has been transferred to the Cranbrook office. He will start work there on December 1st.

STAN COOK, an Inspector in Cranbrook, will be moving to Quesnel, replacing JOHN WORTHINGTON, who has left Quesnel to take up work and residence in the Abbotsford office.

RICHARD BURTON, who left Terrace and Prince Rupert to move to Victoria, where he has been for three or four years, is now returning to Terrace.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended by the Association to these new members:

LOUIS CORDIERO, FRED WELSH & SONS, Vancouver, Associate.

WAYNE WEIDIG, Weidig Electric, also an Associate.

*The Last Word...*

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOODNIGHT.....

*SPECIAL OFFER --*

*NO INCREASE!*

PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP IN THE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS' ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ENCLOSED IS \$25.00 AS - AN INSPECTOR \_\_\_\_\_  
AN ASSOCIATE \_\_\_\_\_

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