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**Subject:** Industrial electrician immigrants  
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The SATCC acts on behalf of the industry – led trade boards which govern each trade. These boards are comprised of employers, employees, employer groups and unions from each specific trade.

The Electrician Trade Board met recently to consider the policies regarding electricians immigrating to Saskatchewan. The Board's main concerns are two-fold:

1 – the electrical systems in most countries do not use the same voltage system, wiring practices and so forth as are commonly found in the United States and Canada;

2 – immigrants would have no prior knowledge of the Canadian Electrical Code, particularly those working in the industrial electrician trade.

As you know, and as I explained in my communication to you of December 23, 2011, Saskatchewan does not have "industrial electrician" designated as a trade. There is only one trade in Saskatchewan, and our residents are trained in both construction and industrial practices. Consequently, Saskatchewan trained and licensed electricians can, and often do, work in both fields.

In January I asked the Electrician Trade Board to meet and consider the two items listed below. The Board held two meetings and has now concluded its deliberations.

1 – should the industrial electrician trade be designated in Saskatchewan? The Board replied "no".

2 – Given that Saskatchewan now has an upgrader program available, should immigrant industrial electricians still be required to complete a full apprenticeship program in Saskatchewan? The board agreed that the upgrader alternative was now acceptable.

In its very long history, the Electrician Trade Board has consistently required immigrant electricians to gain a year's work experience prior to challenging for journeyman status. The Electrician Trade Board's requirements are now amended as follows:

- **Construction electricians** – if the foreign trained and certified worker has full time in the trade (4 years/7200 hours) and is a certified journeyman in their country of origin and deemed to be equivalent, SATCC requires them to work in Canada for one year as an electrician, then challenge the journeyman examination.
  
- **Industrial electricians** – all foreign trained and certified industrial electricians who have completed an apprenticeship program in that trade, must work in Canada and complete the electrician apprenticeship program; *OR* work in Canada for one year as an electrician, complete the upgrader program; then challenge the journeyman examination.

Rick Ewen, Director

March 19, 2012