

You Ought To Know

ISSUE: 12 | YELLOW PAGE Issue

How does our Journeyperson Powerline Technician rate compare with others?

Although the wage rates negotiated for Powerline Technicians under the Principal Agreement are not significantly higher than those of Hydro One and Bruce Power, there is a gap. We expect there would be a larger gap with other employers, but those wages are not available.

| Powerline Technician: May 1, 2024 | ECAO average: Yellow Pages | CUSW/PWU* contractor |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Hours of work - regular | 40 | 40 |
| Overtime | 1.5 - 2x | 1.5 -2x |
| Total Package | \$75.27 | \$66.80 |
| Weekly rate based on 40 hours/week | \$3,010.80 | \$2,671.87 |

*Average of Hydro One (CUSW), Hydro One (PWU) and Bruce Power (CUSW)

When I work outside of my home area, what am I obligated to remit?

Clause 1000 in the Yellow Pages clearly states that union dues are to be paid to the local union where the work is being performed. It is ECAO's position that union dues are not the same as union funds. For all non-Electrician classifications, that is the requirement.

Electricians and Electrician Apprentices are covered by the Letter of Understanding on page 83 of the Yellow Pages that was negotiated during the 2015/16 round of bargaining. All remittances should be paid to the local union where the work is being performed. The contractor and Business Manager can agree to remit health and welfare, and pension to the home local.

How many hours are worked under the Yellow Pages?

Provincially, we are not yet able to accurately track hours worked under the Yellow Pages by all classifications. A few years ago, the ECA Line came up with a solution. We are legally required to remit one cent for each hour earned to Ontario Construction Secretariat (OCS) for ICI work only. Since the Yellow Pages are for non-ICI linework, and with the goal of tracking hours under the Yellow Pages, it was decided to re-route the one cent to ECA Line instead of to OCS. This does not cost our contractors an additional cent.

Also, wage schedules were added to the Yellow Pages during the last round of collective bargaining. You will notice that there is a new ECA Line column whereby one cent is re-routed from the remittances already made to ECA Line. Some local areas have Yellow Page remittance forms. If you work under the Yellow Pages, please use the proper remittance form so hours can be accurately tracked.

To get an accurate report of hours, we need the contractors to report the hours under the Yellow Pages each month to their area ECA or use a separate remittance form for Yellow Pages work. Please contact Jodi Travers if you need more information.

Powerline Technician Apprentice Training Trust Fund (PLTATTF)

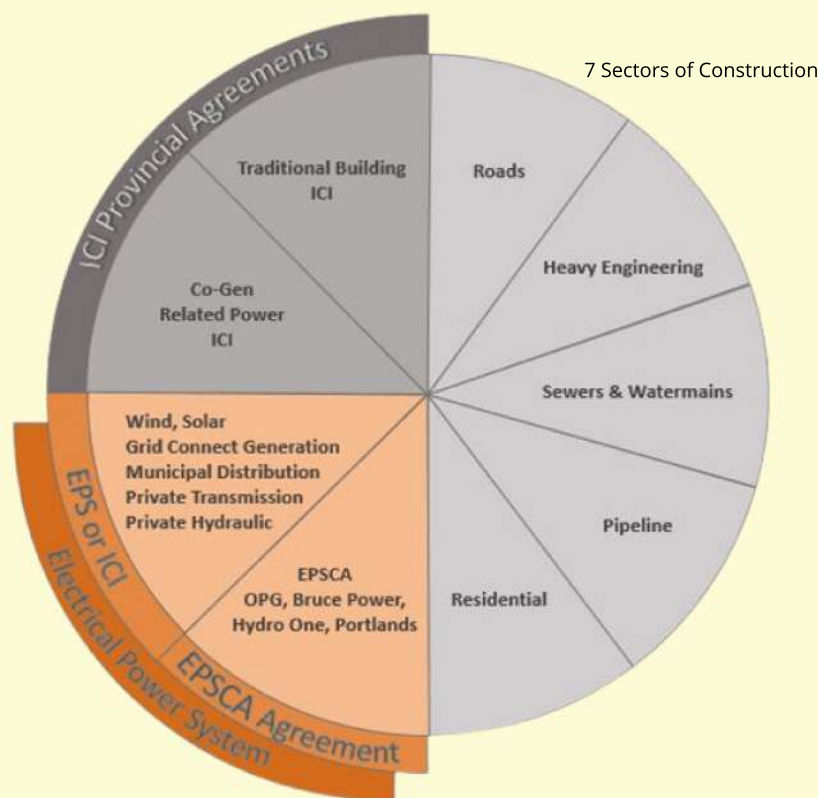
The Line Contractors set up a fund in 2010 to ensure contractors are reimbursed for the cost of apprentice training for Powerline Technician (PLT) Apprentices. Contractors are required to remit fifty cents per hour earned by each Powerline Technician and Apprentice Powerline Technician directly to ECAO for work done under the Blue and Yellow Pages. For details, please refer to page 20 and page 47 of the Principal Agreement. Each contributing contractor is reimbursed for the cost of training when their PLT Apprentices complete each level of training with IHSA or MEARIE.

New in 2022, the PLTATTF Trustees agreed to expand the fund to provide an education allowance to contributing contractors based on their remittances from the previous year. These contractors are reimbursed for IHSA and MEARIE training costs for Powerline Technicians and PLT Apprentices.

What is the difference between the Yellow Pages and EPSCA? How do I know which agreement I am working under?

The scope of the Yellow Pages is outlined in section 2 of the Yellow Pages, which are part of the Principal Agreement negotiated between the Electrical Trade Bargaining Agency (ETBA) of the ECAO and the IBEW and IBEW Construction Council of Ontario (IBEW CCO).

There are seven sectors of construction under the Labour Relations Act. The Yellow Pages covers all sectors other than ICI and EPSCA work. It includes Electrical Power Systems on projects and transmission systems. The scope excludes work covered by the EPSCA and IBEW CCO Collective Agreements. You can find the EPSCA Collective Agreements on their website at www.epsca.org



Do you know what You Ought to Know?

We hope that you're benefitting from the facts and insights we've shared through the publication thus far, and we welcome your questions and content ideas for future issues at any time. Contact Jodi Travers, ECAO's Labour Relations Manager, at jtravers@ecao.org. You can find all previous issues on the ECAO website under Publications.