

2025 Fall Workshop Agenda

October 14 - 16, 2025
Jasper Park Lodge

AEFAA is once again proud to be hosting the Annual Fall workshop. AEFAA originally reserved the Jasper Park Lodge for the Fall 2024 Workshop but had to relocate due to the wildfire, and we are very pleased to return there this year.

This highly anticipated event will take place amidst the stunning backdrop of the Canadian Rockies, where nature's beauty provides the perfect setting for learning and networking. We invite everyone to join us in celebrating the spirit of collaboration and learning at this year's workshop. Whether you are a returning participant or new to the AEFAA community, the Annual Fall Workshop at Jasper Park Lodge is an event not to be missed!

Tuesday October 14

3:00pm – 5:00pm	Trade Show Setup
5:00pm – 8:00pm	Trade Show Social Evening <i>Mary Schaeffer Ballroom</i>

22 Vendors have registered for this event to showcase their latest products and services available in Alberta. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday October 15

7:00am – 8:30am	Breakfast <i>Mary Schaeffer Ballroom</i>
8:30am – 8:45am	Welcome and Opening Remarks by AEFAA President <i>Mary Schaeffer Ballroom</i>
8:45am – 9:45am	Solar Photovoltaics in Alberta Schools <i>Mary Schaeffer Ballroom</i>

Practical guidance for educational facility leaders on planning, funding, and operating school solar photovoltaics in Alberta. We will cover site screening, roof readiness, microgeneration rules, utility interconnection, grants, tender pitfalls, warranties, safety, and O&M. You will leave with Alberta-specific lessons learned and clear next steps for your facility.

9:45am – 10:00am

Break

10:00am – 11:00am

Restructured Electricity Market Seminar: Reliability, Affordability & Sustainability - Energy Associates International
Mary Schaeffer Ballroom

In cooperation with Alberta Education Facilities Administrators Association (AEFAA), Energy Associates International (EAI) would like to share and discuss market trends, risks and opportunities for commercial and institutional electricity customers on Alberta's path to a net zero electricity grid. Unlike most of the provinces in Canada, Alberta's electricity grid continues to experience unique challenges with recarbonization and electrification. External pressures from Ottawa requiring accelerated decarbonization to NetZero by 2035 have had impacts on reliability and costs as witnessed by the emergency alert events in 2024 and recent blackout events in Spain and Portugal. Upcoming regulatory changes in Alberta's electricity market are intended to minimize electricity price volatility and grid congestion; these changes in addition to load requirements from large data centers are expected to impact new merchant generation investment and wholesale market trading liquidity. Alberta's upcoming restructured electricity market in 2027 will also allow for more distributed generation, batteries and participation by demand-side sources to support grid adequacy and reliability.

At this seminar, senior staff at EAI will draw on decades of wholesale energy trading and origination experience, to explain the new path chosen by Alberta to address reliability, affordability and decarbonization by 2050. Attendees will also learn about opportunities and risks related to renewables investment, including prioritizing energy efficiency and capital investment to succeed in the upcoming restructured electricity market.

11:00am – 12:00pm

Alberta Roofing Contractors Association
Mary Schaeffer Ballroom

The Alberta Roofing Contractors Association (ARCA) is one of the most respected roofing contractor associations in North America, established over sixty years ago to serve the Alberta roofing industry by providing leadership through the development and promotion of standards, education and professional delivery of roofing services. This session will provide essential insights for facility professionals into new and innovative advancements in roofing systems. Attendees will gain an understanding of the increased scrutiny of roofing materials in response to Alberta's demanding climate, the critical importance of rooftop equipment awareness, roof fire classification, and effective risk mitigation practices that help safeguard facilities during construction and throughout the building's lifecycle.

12:00 pm – 1:00pm Lunch
Mary Schaeffer Ballroom

1:00pm – 5:00pm Principle Session - Jasper “Lessons Learned”
Mary Schaeffer Ballroom

During the summer of 2024 the Jasper community suffered a devastating loss due to fire. This session will tell the story of what took place regarding Grande Yellowhead School Division and their attempts to resume operation. Alberta Education, Marsh Insurance, Premier Fire & Flood, and ARMIC representatives will join in hosting a panel discussion and giving their perspectives on the successes and lessons learned. This session holds particular value to school divisions who could be subject to this type of hazard.

Thursday October 16

7:00am – 8:30am Breakfast
Mary Schaeffer Ballroom

9:00am – 11:15am Alberta Education – IMR, CMR, PO&M
Mary Schaeffer Ballroom

The session will begin with a brief update on the newly released 2025/26 School Capital Manual, highlighting key revisions to chapters on modular classroom requests, leasing requests, and maintenance and renewal. Facility administrators will be encouraged to review the manual and incorporate these changes into their upcoming submissions and reporting requirements.

Following this, Mr. Newton will present an overview of Alberta Education and Childcare’s IMR and CMR programs, including details on the School Construction Accelerator Program (Schools Now), increased government funding being requested, reporting expectations, and planning timelines. Government insights into IMR and CMR priorities and direction will also be shared, providing administrators with a clearer understanding of program expectations and future planning considerations.

11:15am – 11:30 am Closing comments and grab-and-go lunch
Mary Schaeffer Ballroom

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Neil Popson, P. Eng.

Senior Electrical Engineer and Technology Lead
SMP Engineering



Neil Popson, P.Eng., is a Senior Electrical Engineer and Technology Lead at SMP Engineering in Alberta. He designs and reviews solar PV, lighting, power, fire alarm, and communications systems for schools and public facilities. His focus is Alberta microgeneration compliance, utility interconnection, tender clarity, and O&M readiness. He translates code and constraints into practical, buildable designs.

Jay U. Manoharan, P. Eng.

Managing Partner, North America
Energy Associates International (EAI)



With over 30 years' experience in the various energy utilities sectors, Jay leads an energy practice in trading and portfolio management in deregulated wholesale trading electricity and natural gas markets in North America. Jay has worked in senior leadership positions transforming vertically integrated energy utilities to compete in deregulated energy markets including merchant PPA design and origination, wholesale energy trading, renewable energy development, operating reserve markets, distributed generation and energy marketing. With energy transition, Jay is actively engaged developing net zero and carbon market optimization for utilities, energy producers and end-users in deregulated markets in North America and emerging structured markets in Asia.

Kevin Kramers, C.E.T., R.R.O., C.T.R.

Technical Officer

Alberta Roofing Contractors Association (ARCA)



Kevin Kramers is the Technical Officer for the ARCA and brings over thirty years of construction experience in Alberta. In his role, Kevin is responsible for maintaining the ARCA Roofing Application Standards Manual, managing the ARCA Interdisciplinary Technical Committee, researching new roofing products and application methods, and delivering technical education to building professionals across the province. In addition to his work with ARCA, Kevin actively contributes to the broader roofing and construction industry through his involvement on several key technical committees. He

is a member of the Canadian Roofing Contractors Association (CRCA) National Technical Committee, the ASET Discipline Committee, and sits on multiple CSA Technical Committees that help shape and advance roofing standards in Canada.

Ross Newton

Senior Manager

Alberta Education and Childcare



Ross Newton is a Senior Manager with Alberta Education and Childcare, bringing over three decades of leadership in education infrastructure planning, strategic policy development, and assessment administration. He currently leads the Ministry's Modular Classroom Program, Leasing Program, and Maintenance and Renewal initiatives, advancing responsive and sustainable learning environments across Alberta. Throughout his career, Ross has held key leadership roles in Capital Planning South, Strategic Planning, Capital Planning North, and Exam

Administration. His contributions have shaped provincial legislation, policies, and operational frameworks that support the delivery of high-quality education across the province. Ross began his career as a teacher and later served as an examiner, playing a pivotal role in the design and implementation of Alberta's provincial achievement tests. Outside of his professional responsibilities, Ross enjoys staying physically active, gardening, and preparing savory meals. He is married and a proud father of two grown children and grandfather to four grandchildren under the age of eight.