

Sample of article: Electric Vehicle Standards  
Placed in employee newsletter  
Client: CSA

## Charging ahead with electric cars

Plug-in electric vehicles were once found only in the landscape of science fiction. Today this new technology is out and about in the real world, and capturing widespread interest. Mitsubishi has supplied electric vehicles to Hydro QC, BC Hydro and the City of Vancouver. The 2010 Winter Olympics showcased the technology with onsite charging stations and Olympic sponsor GM's Volt. But getting electric vehicles on the road like their internal combustion cousins is another matter.... a matter largely of standards.

That's where CSA jumped in to the driver's seat. Last fall, CSA formed an Electric Vehicle Resource Task Group (evRTG) to provide leadership and direction in the establishment of EV standards and codes in Canada. Its diverse membership includes people from government ministries, utility companies, regulating bodies, auto manufacturers and EV industry associations.

Two project managers – Cliff Rondeau and Iulian Mereuta – have been steering the group, since Stephen Brown first identified the opportunity and laid the groundwork. “Education on how the electrical system in Canada works and the need for EV standards relating to electrical safety has been the key,” says Cliff. “The automakers in particular have found the group to be extremely informative and beneficial.”

One challenge with electric vehicles has been the lack of infrastructure readiness: plug-in cars can't work without charging stations across the continent. A power supply system that relies on an external source needs to be standardized. If EV users in apartment blocks plugged in at the same time, EMC standards would need to come into play to assure power quality. And once charged, how could vehicles be hooked back into the power grid, regulated by individual provinces, to supply unused energy? These are just some of the gaps in standards and industry practices that need to be addressed.

The evRTG is now looking at existing standards to harmonize and adopt, identifying new areas for development, seeking funding partners, and laying out an action plan of priorities.

You could say, they're hitting the road running.