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# Chris K. Panasiewicz

M.Sc., P.Eng., CFEI

Consulting Engineer & Electrical Engineer

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**OFFICE**

Burlington

**EMAIL**

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**CONTACT**

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Specializing in fire and explosions investigations and electrical engineering, Chris is qualified as an expert witness in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and has investigated over 1000 forensic incidents to date. In addition to over 10 years of fire and explosions experience, Chris has over 20 years' experience working as an electrical engineer in the field of high and low voltage motors, generators, transformers and electrical equipment failure mode investigations and analysis, including electrical components design, repair and testing methods.

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## EDUCATION

University of Lodz  
Design and Construction of Electrical Machines and Equipment  
Łódź, Łódź Voivodeship, Poland

University of Toronto  
Electrical Power Systems, Power Semiconductors  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Centennial College  
Aircraft Maintenance & Regulations  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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## PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION/LICENSING

- Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO), P. Eng

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## TECHNICAL AFFILIATIONS

- Canadian Association of Fire Investigators (CAFI)
- National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI)
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

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## CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI)

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Forensic Engineer

OCI Group (Formerly Origin and Cause Incorporated)

Burlington, Ontario

September 2014 – Present

- Fire investigations of industrial and apartment buildings, residential houses, house appliances, electrical installations and switch gear, trucks and passenger vehicles
- Examination of the fire-damaged electrical equipment and components
- Failure mode investigations of electrical equipment, including those in:
  - High voltage, transformers and equipment
  - Generators and motors
  - Low voltage bus duct risers and underground cables
  - Industrial manufacturing equipment
  - Control systems and electronic devices
  - Passenger vehicles and trucks
- Preparation of the investigation reports for the insurance and legal industry clients
- Continuous participation in the industry lectures, conferences and seminars (CAFI, NAFI, ISFI, IAAI)

### Electrical Engineer

Arcon Engineering Consultants Limited

Toronto, Ontario

July 2004 – August 2014

- Fire investigations of industrial and apartment buildings, residential houses, house appliances, electrical installations and switchgear, trucks and passenger vehicles
- Examination of the fire-damaged electrical equipment and components
- Failure mode investigations of electrical equipment
- Preparation of the investigation reports for the Insurance and Legal Industry Clients

**Chief Engineer**

CPAN Solutions Inc.

Toronto, Ontario

August 2000 – August 2013

- High voltage (HV) SF6 transformer repairs for government agencies
- Failure Investigations of the (HV) SF6 electrical systems/equipment/transformers
- Development of the insulating material specifications, including HV transformer coils casting resins
- Development of the production instructions for the repair of the SF6 HV transformers
- Preparation of test plans, including HV Dielectric and Partial Discharge testing based on CSA, IEEE and IEC standards
- Cooperating with HV laboratories and scientists in the field of HV Engineering

**Chief Engineer**

Spar Aerospace Limited/Godfrey Aerospace

Mississauga, Ontario

July 1994 – September 2002

- Developed expertise in the failure mode analysis of complex mechanical and electrical systems used in the fixed wing aircraft, helicopters and ground support equipment
- Boeing 747 aircraft fire investigation
- CH-113 Labrador helicopter generator failure and crash investigation
- Ground support generation equipment failure investigations
- Technical authority for Bombardier RJ200 aircraft water tanks

**Equipment Engineer**

Ontario Hydro

Toronto, Ontario

August 1988 – July 1994

- Developed expertise in the design of HV Transmission and Distribution Transformers and Transmission and Distribution Stations Equipment
- Prepared new technical specifications and standards for the distribution station power transformers and voltage regulators
- Developed technical specifications and design requirements for HV Mobile Unit Substations

## Design Engineer & Technologist

Allanson Div. of Jannock Ltd. & Sola Canada

Toronto, Ontario

September 1985 – August 1988

- Designed, tested and qualified fluorescent and high Intensity Discharge(HID) ballasts
- September 1980-July 1985
- Manager, Power Station, Lodz, Poland
- Electrical Motors and Equipment Repair Department

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## PRESENTATIONS

Webinar, “Ask An Expert: Open-Mic Discussions With Leading Forensic Engineers”, (November 2015)

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## PUBLICATIONS

Electric Vehicles and The Unique Risks Insurers Need to Consider (December 2015)