

The Southern Alberta Section (SAS) of the Institute Radio Engineers (IRE) was formed from what was then the Alberta Section on May 10, 1956. The northern boundary of SAS, as indicated in the original document, is N52° 14' 47" (south of the city of Red Deer) and the southern boundary is the Canada – U.S. Border. At the time, Canada was Region 8 of the IRE. The location at which the newly formed SAS was housed was known then as the Calgary campus of the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art (now known as the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)). The first Section Chairman was Mr. W. Partin and the first Section Secretary was Mr. R. Lamb. A document with an apparent list of members indicates that SAS began with 31 members and associate members.

Volunteers are the backbone of IEEE and SAS has a committed volunteer base. These volunteers have allowed SAS to host many conferences and symposia as part of IEEE. Since 1984, SAS has hosted Wescanex 90 and CCECE 1996. Recent efforts have included the annual Electrical Safety and Megaprojects Workshops (ESW/ETMP) organized jointly with the Northern Canada Section (2005, 2007, 2008) and PCIC in 2007. In 2009, SAS will have hosted the I and C conference, the PES General Meeting, and the section is planning for CCECE 2010.

SAS led IEEE in membership growth in 2006.

Section Chairs from 1984 to present are contained in the table below.

Year	Name
2009	William Rosehart
2008	Philip Choy
2007	Philip Choy
2006	Lawrence Whitby
2005	Lawrence Whitby
2004	Vaughn Schuler
2003	Vaughn Schuler
2002	Colette Bielech
2001	Colette Bielech
2000	Rob Anderson
1999	Rob Anderson
1998	Rob Anderson
1997	Rob Anderson
1996	John Maniawski
1995	Paul Kos
1994	Paul Kos
1993	Brent Serbin
1992	Valerie Reinelt
1991	Valerie Reinelt

1990	John Maniawski
1989	Dean Rindt
1988	Dean Rindt
1987	S.S. Otal
1986	S.S. Otal
1985	Brian Unger
1984	Brian Unger

In 2009, SAS has 6 Chapters and Joint Chapters, a GOLD affinity group, and a student section at the University of Calgary.

Chapter formation dates are shown below.

Chapter	Formation Year
Life Members	2005
Circuits and Systems/Solid State Circuits	2004
GOLD Affinity Group	2003
Communications/Antennas and Propagation/Microwave Theory	2003
Communications	1992
Engineering in Medicine and Biology	1991
Computer	1979
Power Engineering/Industrial Applications	1979
Robotics and Automation	2000