

National Home Inspector Certification Council

www.nationalhomeinspector.org

Notification to all National Certificate Holders, Candidates and Applicants

The National Certification Program is alive and well.

BACKGROUND:

Almost 14 years have passed since CMHC convened a meeting of home inspector leaders to address the process to have a unified national body that represents the home inspection sector from coast to coast to coast. More recently on April 7, 2010 CAHPI National passed a motion announcing a significant restructuring of the National Certification Program, thereby phasing out the importance of recognition of National Certificate Holder, in March 2011. This has created a significant and potentially harmful impact on National Certificate Holders and consumers, along with numerous applicants, candidates and accredited training providers caught in the “program”.

In simple terms, the National Certification process is a valid and defensible certification process planned for all home inspectors in Canada. The national program needs to be maintained and valued for its original purpose and commitment to its stakeholders such as CMHC, CREA, OREA, HRSDC, FNNBOA, Insurance Bureau of Canada, and ACBOA, and all who have invested heavily and that are supportive of the NCH designation. It is equally important to note that **National Certification** and **Provincial Certification** are two different designations. The National Certification Program was designed to represent a truly self-governing certification body for ALL home inspectors in Canada, comprised on National Certificate Holders, thus leaving association politics out of the decision making process.

In studying best practices, **it has become readily apparent that the administration and control of creating a successful National Certification Program is best performed by a truly independent certification body, entirely at arm’s length to home inspection associations.** Autonomy is required in order for certification programs to serve stakeholder interests, primarily those of consumers of professional services. CAN-P-9 and similar credentialing criterion do not allow decisions on certification to be subcontracted. In fundamental significance CAHPI’s plan fails to provide this. Equally, self-certification by a home inspection association creates an inherent self-interest and conflict such by the recent decision proposed by CAHPI to reduce the NCH to an entry level for an RHI designation.

The home inspector certification entity best suited to perform “National Certification” is identified as the National Home Inspector Certification Council – (NHICC). It is comprised of a National Certificate Holder “council” of home inspectors and representation on the council such as a CMHC, first nation’s inspectors, a consumer rep and other third party stakeholders. The NHICC will also have constituent consultative committee members representing Canadian home and property inspection associations.

Fundamental to the certification process are the National Occupational Standards (NOS). These describe the skills and knowledge required to undertake a particular job to the level determined by the sector for which they are intended. In other words, they describe best practice and competence. **NOS are produced with public funding so they are in the public domain, allied to the National Certification and Accreditation Model for Home & Property Inspectors. For more info on the NOS please visit [NHICC-NOS](#).**

Home Inspectors have a “duty of care” both to the seller and the buyer. The NOS requires Home Inspectors to recognize the limits of their own competence and refer work outside their area of construction technology expertise to appropriate professional experts. The National Certification “test

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inspection” is intended to signify that a reliable and measurable service is being delivered to instill consumer confidence, by examining the inspector’s matter-of-fact home inspection skills and knowledge, demonstrating compliance in order to qualify for certification.

Even today, the home inspection sector within Canada is largely unregulated. With the exception of British Columbia, none of the provinces have legislation in place mandating the licensing of home inspectors. **The National Certification Program is the only verifiable, rigorous credential available in Canada that is consistent in every region and is available to all home inspectors in Canada, whether they are members of an association or not.**

The amount of training and education required to obtain an inspector designation is arbitrarily defined and is not set out in any legislation. As a result if a home inspector does not meet the National Certification Program criteria, that inspector is not prevented or prohibited from home inspecting.

SOLUTION:

What is abundantly clear is that there are various home inspection entities that state that they are committed to public protection and minimizing the collateral damage caused on others. What is also clear is that we have a long way to go in agreeing on a number of issues, such as addressing the self-interest as well as motives and the representation implied by the proliferation of self-certifications that currently exist. **The response to that can be resolved by an independent third party certification agency or can be developed in concert with, or endorsed by, unbiased third parties.**

A letter was issued, to provide CAHPI reasonable notice to either reinstitute the National Certification Program or to expect that a parallel “program” would be launched. The deadline for a decision was required by midnight May 14th, 2010. Regrettably the deadline was not met.

WELCOME:

A new body, the National Home Inspector Certification Council (NHICC) has assumed the administration of a new National Certification Program, to continue the ideals of the “National Initiative”. The NHICC will provide a parallel National Certification Program for home inspectors, with greater rigor and real independence. The NHICC welcomes those inspectors that have achieved their National Certificate Holder (NCH) status to consider the opportunity to maintain the value and mutual benefit of your earned certification mark, for its intended duration, and not just until March 2011. Additionally, the NHICC welcomes and encourages new applicants as well as those candidates that were caught in the “transition” stage of the former program that was abruptly halted.

The NHICC plans on protecting the bona fide value of National Certificate Holder. The NHICC's is committed to providing the leadership within the home inspection sector as promised over the past decade to the profession and its entire stakeholders. More so it will offer a support system to those that have rightfully earned their NCH certification.

If you have any questions regarding how the program works, or how the NHICC will serve you, please contact us at info@nationalhomeinspector.org. You may also read further information on our newly established website at: www.nationalhomeinspector.org or provide feedback by completing the online survey.

Regards, NHICC – Directors and Certification Council

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