

# National Home Inspector Certification Council

## What's the value of becoming a National Home Inspector - Canada?

The NHI designation provides national recognition of achieving the highest level of academic training combined with supervised/mentor training, practical experience along with exams and field testing for home inspectors in Canada. **It represents the new gold standard for home inspectors!** It's a winning combination for the "home inspector as well as the profession". It's open to all home inspectors regardless of membership affiliation.

### The Benefits:

1. Attests your skills have been tested and shown to meet the national home inspection standards of the National Home Inspector™.
2. Provides validation of your professional skills, knowledge level and competence by an **independent** National Certification Council and recognized by the NHICC.
3. Promotes best practices in the field as well as it keeps your skills relevant, applicable, and competitive.
4. Provides a competitive edge for consumer awareness.
5. Provides models for others to follow, proving your complete commitment to long term and ongoing professional development.
6. Identifies official "accredited" training that meets and in some cases exceeds the National Occupational Standards. Accredited training is readily available through a number of educational training providers across Canada, in a variety of delivery formats.
7. Adds recognition to inspection related government initiatives such as "regulation/licensing" and other strategic relationships.
8. Attain NHI™ Designation recognition with a personal certificate as a National Certificate Holder. Displays your professional affiliation to co-workers and clients. Enhances your professional status.
9. Offers a transferable credential - the National Home Inspector™ designation offers a pre-established national certification standard offering portability from one province to another.
10. Offers recognition from other stakeholders such as mortgage lenders and CREA (Canadian Real Estate Association) as well as national real estate companies.
11. Provides national standardization and harmony - the political argument to become a National Home Inspector™ centers on offering assurance that home and property inspections in one province are consistent with the services and skills available in other parts of Canada.
12. Some even indicate that the NHICC - National Certification Program offers the established baseline guide to satisfying regulation or right to practice legislation such as in British Columbia and Alberta.

Attaining the National Home Inspector – Canada™ designation provides direction, purpose, and opportunities that can assist you in your journey to achieving excellence in your home inspection practice.

### The following are quotes from articles found on publicly available websites about National Certification.

*"Our federal government recognized this no-qualifications world was wrong and set out to bring standards to the industry. It unveiled the National Certification Standard, the new national standards of competency, certification, and accreditation for home inspectors and municipal building officials. These new standards are a tremendous win for consumers, and they are being implemented this year."*

*"Did the efforts of so many pay off? They sure did — these national standards are already being hailed as the best in the world, and are being emulated in the US and elsewhere. A fine achievement by everyone involved, particularly the CMHC, who brought so many together for common purposes."* **Source: Standards for home inspectors showing signs of success - Michael Guihan, C. Tech., RHI (Past-President CAHPI)**

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*"This National Certification Program identifies two stages of certification — 'Candidate' and 'National Certificate Holder'. CAHPI (BC)'s governance plan will give 'National Certificate Holders' in BC the power to nominate and elect other 'National Certificate Holders' to the board of the provincial licensing body, with the provincial government appointing other board members."* **Source: Letter to Mayor Maxine Wilson and Members of Council, March 28, 2006**

*"Our new Board knows that BC consumers expect home inspectors to have high standards and to be above reproach. We're pleased with CAHPI's Registered Home Inspector (RHI) designation, and now the National Certification Program (NCP), consumers know what to look for when seeking an experienced, qualified and accountable home inspector. Put simply, CAHPI's RHI designation and the National Certificate Holder designation have become the gold standard for the home inspection industry."* **Source: Letter to Mayor Bob Turner and Members of Council, June 16, 2008 – Owen Dickie (President of CAHPI-BC)**

*"The National Certification Program for home inspectors was established when Canada's minister of housing announced that a national body, the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors, would be given the mandate to administer a certification model for all Canadian home inspectors. The program has the blessing of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., the Canadian Real Estate Association, Insurance Bureau of Canada and the Canadian Bankers Association.*

*The national program was intended to rid the system of inequities that allow anyone to call himself a home inspector after taking a quick course on the Internet or simply printing business cards and advertising his services."* **Source – National Post, Home inspection in the spotlight, November 27, 2008**

Without a "national certification standard" attention can still be drawn to the fact that a large preponderance of home inspectors have varying skills levels and ability. Another notable concern, some have little if any oversight to assure that they will be accountable for their actions, particularly to the public and especially to consumers of home inspections. Over half of the home inspectors in Canada do not belong to any association. Other significant differences point to the disparity and inconsistencies in the process that are related to education, testing and practical experience, or perhaps the ease for some to become almost instantly "certified".

It takes more than a few hours or few days to become competent, and certainly it should not be at the cost of causing damage to others such as an unsuspecting home buyer. Occupational competence is based on achieving advanced credentials and lots of experience. Assuring occupational competence was one of the primary goals articulated in the National Initiative Research Study of CMHC. To complete that goal the NHICC thoroughly assesses every applicant based on a reasonable but rigorous background review and testing process.

**The NHI (National Home Inspector- Canada™) designation recognizes practitioners who meet standards of proficiency and who are committed to maintaining the Standards of Practice and Ethics Code for the profession.**

**The NHICC is an independent, self-funded body formed to set high standards of ethical and professional practice through a recognized, credible credentialing program that mirrors observance with CAN-P-9 certification standards. It's a win-win situation for both the NHI and consumers as they now can hire Canada's leading designated Home Inspectors when purchasing a home. No other home inspector designation is rated higher in Canada and supported by so many stakeholders, like the Construction Sector Council, CMHC, CREA, mortgage lender, insurers and the legal community.**