



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF
HOME & PROPERTY INSPECTORS
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES
INSPECTEURS DE BIENS IMMOBILIERS



NATIONAL CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

September 22, 2006

Dear CAHPI Member Association:

Last year, the CAHPI Board voted to accept the results of the CHIBO II project: *A National Certification and Accreditation Model for Home and Property Inspectors*. Shortly after the CAHPI Annual General Meeting, a committee was struck to oversee a pilot project. That committee morphed into a body called the National Certification Authority.

The National Certification Authority (NCA) has been working very hard with a number of volunteers (both home inspectors and laypersons) and paid consultants to manage the pilot project so that a National Certification Program could be created, modeled on the CHIBO II report.

It is the pleasure of the NCA to present to you our findings. Happily, we can report that the National Certification Program is more than just a theory, but it is a practical and viable plan for the future of the home and property inspection sector in Canada. Benefits of this program are already being realized as awareness is growing and numerous institutions are looking forward to building upon the foundation that we are creating.

This package summarizes the pilot project and defines the structure of the National Certification Program. In addition to the CHIBO II document, you will find a summary of the pilot project and a Governance Model. In addition, we have provided a number of other documents containing details of the processes and procedures that have been built.

Despite all of the details, you may find that you have some questions that are not answered. This may be for one of several reasons. The questions may not have been resolved (or raised) yet or the answers may exist elsewhere. I encourage you to contact us with any of these questions, and if we can resolve it for you, we will.

There will be some questions that cannot be answered yet. The Program is in its infancy, and we have no way of predicting every need that the Program will have when it is five years old.

Graham Clarke, Chair

Each of you will understand this, of course, since all of our associations find that we have to change to keep up with the times, and the new challenges that come with our successes.

An Overview

The National Certification Program is owned by CAHPI and is operated on behalf of CAHPI by the National Certification Authority, an independent, arm's length body made up of elected National Certificate Holders. The functions of the Program are carried out by various committees and individuals.

The National Accreditation Council is responsible for reviewing, and recommending for accreditation, providers of training and education, ensuring that accredited educators are capable of turning out qualified and well-educated graduates who can perform inspections in accordance with the National Occupational Standards.

The National Certification Council is responsible for certifying that individuals have meet the requirements of the Certification Program. At present, the task is more difficult, as there are a number of existing practitioners who do not have the formal training that sets the standard for a National Certificate Holder. The Certification Council must determine whether or not existing practitioners have experience equivalent to the appropriate formal training. In the future, the job will become much simpler as new Candidates enter the Program having completed training at one or more of the accredited institutions.

One of the requirements of a National Certificate is the Test Inspection and Peer Review Process, which is where a Candidate's competency is tested in a practical manner. The Chief Examiner is responsible for administering this component of the Program.

The Registrar is the central contact point for all of the information on the program, including the Database of National Certificate Holders.

The intent of the National Certification Program is to establish a level and consistent standard for home and property inspectors across Canada. Some may see a National Certification competing with other designations, such as Registered Home Inspector. In fact, it is the goal of the National Certification Authority that the National Certificate become an integral component of full membership in any association that a Canadian home and property inspector may want to join. For example, one province may simply use the National Certificate as their RHI requirement. Other regions may opt to recognize a National Certificate Holder as one membership level and have additional requirements (to recognize important regional differences) on top of the Certificate for their RHI designation. It is expected that at least one province will be building a licensing model based on the National Certification Program.

What's next?

As a result of the Calgary Document, the CAHPI Board accepted that there would be a maximum sixty day review period during which the CAHPI member associations could review

and consult with their members about the proposed program before asking for approval. On November 23, 2006, the CAHPI Board will be asked to approve and implement the National Certification Program. Please review and distribute these documents as needed and direct your representatives to vote at the upcoming CAHPI AGM. It is our hope and expectation, of course, that you will vote in favour of the implementation of the Program.

We hope that you are as excited about this program as the participants in its development are. On behalf of all of those who have worked on (and continue to work on) this project, we want to thank you for your patience and your careful consideration of the Program.

We look forward to your approval of the National Certification Program on November 23rd with great anticipation, as it stands to be a landmark day for home inspectors in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Clarke', written in a cursive style.

Graham Clarke, P.Eng., RHI
Chair – National Certification Authority