

National Home Inspector Certification Council

Important news from the NHICC

The NHICC is now empowered to resume the administration of the NCP, so we are inviting new and renewal applications. Half a year ago, the future of the National Certification Program was arbitrarily and abruptly placed in peril. The National Certification Authority (NCA), the group of experienced inspectors appointed or elected to administer the program, was advised that after four years their efforts were no longer required.

Of the NCA group, several dedicated individuals, most of whom had been elected to the NCA by the National Certificate Holders, formed a new independent certification entity whose main goal is to revive the program and ensure that everyone who was touched by the NCP would have an opportunity to continue that involvement. This 'body,' is called the **National Home Inspector Certification Council** (NHICC). The members that are charged with the administration of the NHICC are the exact same members of the National Certification Authority that were **elected** by National Certificate Holders (NCH), minus the appointed ones. As such, they serve as an **interim steering committee**.

The NHICC has now received approval from the legal owners of the program, the Construction Sector Council (CSC) to advance the National Certification Program for Home & Property Inspectors. NHICC National Certificate Holders (registrants) will be seeing the designation on certificates, correspondence and various forms of communication and advertisement promoting the benefits of achieving the only recognized national certification benchmark. It indicates accountability and is a symbol representing a recognized home inspection professional. Consumers will now have a consistent, reliable and independent resource to locate and hire a nationally recognized home inspector.

Another important milestone is the acceptance of the NHICC into the Institute of Credentialing Excellence. (ICE) This important step indicates the NHICC goal of assuring accountability to the profession. Achievement of the NCH designation can serve several purposes. It recognizes that we own a core set of skills and a particular body of knowledge to assure that the inspector has successfully completed specialized testing and assessment to earn the designation. This includes primarily recognizing the registrant's professional status as well as a distinct means to identify licensed practitioners to a recognized national occupational standard. The key deliverable is being assessed by a truly independent third party certification body, and not just relying on self-certification through membership in an association.

The NHICC is not a home inspection association; it is a home inspector certification body that assures that a home inspector has completely satisfied the NCH designation through rigorous testing and assessments. It is NOT affiliated with any association, it operates under approved by-laws, and like any new corporation its governance body will change as specified over time.

The "program" is open to all home inspectors in the industry in Canada (regardless of affiliation) through fair and equitable system, which also includes significant changes in the fee structure. We welcome members from the Canadian home inspection industry to participate, if they desire, and see the benefit and recognition of the "national program" and maintenance of the NCH as the national benchmark. We are continuing the National Certification Program under a truly **national standard**, with true independence from undue influence that was often an issue noted in the past.

In particular, we welcome those people caught in the program waiting for their TIPR. The NHICC will do its best to conduct TIPR sessions across the country without delay, but we need inspectors to contact us.

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