

# About Us



## Our History

**The NHICC was created to uphold and maintain the value of the National Certification Program.** The origins of the National Certification Program (NCP) that was heavily funded by government funding as well as by other stakeholders was designed to unify the home inspection profession around common goals desired by members of the profession, but also to ensure credibility with the Canadian housing, real estate and financial community.

While this National Initiative and the realization of a National Certification Program framework advanced through the hard work and dedication a number of inspectors through several different stages from 1999 to 2006, the “program” was originally administered under a national association of associations identified as CAHPI. Under this scheme CAHPI created an umbrella group known as the National Certification Authority (NCA) in July of 2006. The “Governance Policy” heavily favoured the whims of CAHPI and its member associations.

**The main purpose defined in the NCA Policy Manual indicated: Policy #1.4 *“The NCA is an arm’s length body whose mandate is to manage and control the certification and accreditation processes.”*** Several Chairs of the NCA recognized the flaws in the “program”, often working to correct them. But most often changes were vetoed at the hands of CAHPI National. However, a core group of NCA directors realized the necessity for more direct independence to maintain a fair and equitable balance of not just CAHPI National, but the inclusiveness of all home inspectors in Canada. Ultimately ensuring arm’s length separation between CAHPI and the NCA must truly exist.

On March 13th, 2010, CAHPI National via its provincial associations pulled the life support on the National Certification Program. What made this a difficult decision is the fact that a number of stakeholders and government funding mainly supported the development of the National Program. It was based on commitments in particular to those stakeholders, as well as to the “inclusiveness” of all home inspectors in Canada, including the ideals of upholding an arm’s length certification process.

**In the CHIBO<sup>1</sup> II Final Report it also notes *“It is not appropriate to require individuals who are within the National Certification Program to be members of a CAHPI provincial association, because this requirement would give a provincial association the power to determine whether or not an individual should be within the National Certification Program. This power must remain with the National Certification Council.”*** Page 28- CHIBO II Final Report (October 2005)

Putting all of the past history aside, that same core group of NCA directors did everything within its power to keep the National Certification program alive. Ultimately this led to the creation of the National Home Inspector Certification Council in May of 2010. After discussions with several government entities the NHICC received approval and license to revitalize the National Certification Program under its mandate.

The NHICC completed a Certificate of Continuance under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act in 2015. Accordingly changes were initiated in the Articles of Incorporation to meet Industry Canada requirements.

*CHIBO<sup>1</sup> – Acronym for Canadian Home Inspectors and Building Officials*

NHICC

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The NHICC is not an agency or just another home inspection association but most distinctly a professional body that serves to promote the interests of its registrants (Certificate Holders), all of whom follow a professional Standard of Practice and Code of Ethics. The NHICC offers its members the opportunity to become certified through exams and by presenting evidence of required education and home inspection experience. Through a truly independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification process

The NHICC offers autonomy in the management and administration of certification and protects certification programs from undue influence. **Autonomy** is required in order for certification programs to serve stakeholder interests, primarily those of consumers of professional services. However, since certification programs take different forms for different professions and occupations, a variety of structures may be effectively employed to prevent undue influence from competing interests.

The following offer just a few of the many NCCA Standards providing evidence of NHICC compliance:

*S1: The purpose of the certification program is to conduct certification activities in a manner that upholds standards for competent practice in a profession, occupation, role, or skill.*

*S2: The certification program must be structured and governed in ways that are appropriate for the profession, occupation, role, or skill, and that ensure autonomy in decision making over essential certification activities.*

*S3: The certification board or governing committee of the certification program must include individuals from the certified population, as well as voting representation from at least one consumer or public member. For entities offering more than one certification program, a system must be in place through which all certified populations are represented, with voting rights, on the certification board or governing committee.*

What differentiates the NHICC from most every other home inspection association?

Simply use the above as a comparative NCCA Standard checklist review as a start. The answer should become obvious. These are just a few of the many measures to ensure an open and transparent certification process.

Most importantly, the NHICC IS NOT a home inspection association, but more specifically, an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification entity, for home inspectors, maintaining membership with ICE (Institute for Credentialing Excellence).

**SO THE QUESTION IS - WHO REALLY CERTIFIED YOUR HOME INSPECTOR?**