

# National Home Inspector Certification Council

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

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 home inspection 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 best practice model for others to follow**, proving your complete commitment to long term and ongoing professional development.
6. **Identifies recognized "accredited" training** that meets 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 NHI Certificate Holder. Displays your professional affiliation to co-workers and clients. Enhances your professional status.
9. **Offers a transferable credential**<sup>1</sup> - 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 and relocation companies.
11. **Provides national standardization and harmony** - the political argument to become a National Home Inspector centres 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.
13. The NHICC will not sit back on its laurels but will **continue the pursuit for recognition wherever licensing and or regulation is announced** in Canada.
14. The NHICC works diligently to mirror and attain recognized standards for accreditation for accredited personnel certification bodies (ISO 17024). As such **the NHICC maintains membership in ICE** – Institute for Credentialing Excellence.

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

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”. Even the concerns echoed by consumers seems to find out through hardships that ethical and business practices of some home inspectors sometimes fall upon deaf ears when complaints are brought forward in some associations.

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. Even a week-end course or taking even a few free courses online does not qualify for the creation of a competent inspector. There's truly no short cuts other than to short change yourself and perhaps even more detrimental - your clients.

Occupational competence is based on achieving advanced training credentials and by obtaining adequate experience. Mentoring and supervised field experience also provides candidates an opportunity to work with recognized and experienced professionals to develop recognized on the job training.

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 through a testing process.

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

**The NHICC is an independent, self-funded certification body formed to set high standards of ethical and professional practice through a recognized, credible credentialing program. One of our primary goals is the ultimate recognition that mirrors adherence and full purpose to attain ISO accreditation<sup>2</sup>.**

**It's a win-win situation for both the NHI and consumers as they now can hire one of 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.**

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1. Note regarding “Transferability – aka transferable credential” – some associations do not recognize the credential, which in itself speaks to a significant concern and anti-competitive behaviour.
  2. Note regarding ISO accreditation – the NHICC currently does not claim that it is “accredited” by ICE or by Standards Council of Canada.