



Ref: 22295

November 14, 2016

Dear Home Inspector:

This message provides an update on the reform of regulations relating to the home inspector profession in British Columbia.

Effective September 1, 2016 the first phase of the planned regulatory changes was implemented. These changes included clear home inspector licensing qualifications and strengthened home inspection reports, contracts and insurance requirements.

Until government makes further changes to the regulation, all of the existing licensing and other regulatory requirements for home inspectors, including those implemented on September 1, 2016, remain the same. We are aware that this has been a time of transition and sometimes uncertainty for home inspectors and those in training, and we appreciate your cooperation and patience as we build toward a licensing system that works better for practitioners and the public.

We are writing to update you on our ongoing work. The second phase of regulatory changes for home inspector licensing is anticipated to begin in 2017, based on input from industry and guidance from an expert consultant. Recognizing the vastly different backgrounds and levels of experience that aspiring home inspectors might have, a credentialing model is being developed with industry input to ensure all new home inspectors meet the same required standards.

To accomplish this, the Province is undertaking a comprehensive review of the qualifications required to perform a home inspection and developing licensing criteria that better measure the competence of new applicants to practice as home inspectors. Government continues to consult on this work with representatives of the home inspection industry in order to confirm a common set of competencies for qualifying new inspectors and a BC Scope of Practice for all home inspectors practicing in British Columbia.

...2/

To date, this process has resulted in an industry-recommended Draft BC Scope of Practice that will both inform the qualification standards for new home inspectors and guide the minimum requirements for home inspections going forward. Although this Draft Scope of Practice document is not fully finalized and not yet available, future amendments to the home inspector regulations are expected to require home inspectors to adhere to a common Scope of Practice.

Specific tools and protocols for the assessments will be developed over the next few months with the assistance of the consultant, in consultation with a representative group of experienced home inspectors.

Further information about the proposed Phase 2 changes will be provided as those changes are developed.

Respectfully,



Greg Steves
Assistant Deputy Minister
Office of Housing and Construction
Standards
Ministry of Natural Gas
Development and Minister
Responsible for Housing



Toby Louie
Executive Director
Corporate Policy and Planning
Office
Ministry of Public Safety and
Solicitor General