



Ref: 20518/20496

Dear Home Inspector:

I am writing to let you know about some important changes regarding the licensing and regulation of home inspectors in British Columbia.

The provincial government has approved [changes to the Home Inspector Licensing Regulation](#) that will strengthen Consumer Protection BC's role in overseeing home inspector licensing and help ensure consumers know what to expect from a home inspector.

The changes, which take effect on September 1, 2016, will improve home inspection contracts, reporting and insurance requirements, and enforcement tools. You will no longer need to belong to an association in order to hold a home inspector license. All home inspectors will need to take continuing education, and approved courses will be available from a variety of sources.

Home inspectors who currently have a license will still qualify for a license under the new rules. All home inspectors must comply with the new requirements by September 1, 2016 so that Consumer Protection BC can implement the changes and home inspectors have time to adapt.

Role of Consumer Protection BC

The qualifications needed to get a new license are similar to what was required before - those requirements have been enhanced and are now included in the regulation. Training will still be available from a variety of providers, but Consumer Protection BC will assess whether applicants are qualified, rather than the associations.

Consumer Protection BC is responsible for investigating contraventions of the Home Inspector Licensing Regulation and the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act*. This includes potential home inspector conflicts of interest, deceptive business practices, and all other contraventions of consumer protection law. As of September 1, 2016, Consumer Protection BC will be the main point of contact for any complaints about home inspector business practices.

Consumer Protection BC will keep you informed with more information about the upcoming changes.

../2

Minister of Natural Gas Development
Minister Responsible for Housing
and Deputy Premier

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9052, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Phone: 250 953-0900
Fax: 250 953-0927

What to Expect Going Forward

The provincial government is working with the industry and consultants to develop a common standard of practice for all home inspectors in British Columbia and stronger qualifications for those applying for a new license. These changes will happen in 2017.

A new standard of practice was recently developed by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), but no decision has been made regarding the best standard to use in British Columbia.

If you have questions about how this information affects you, please contact Consumer Protection BC's licensing team at info@consumerprotectionbc.ca or 1-888-777-4393.

Sincerely yours,

Rich Coleman
Minister and Deputy Premier