



Date: January 30, 2009 – Vancouver

Event: Licensing of Home Inspectors

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- Good afternoon, and thank you for joining us today.
- We're here to address an issue of confidence that will literally hit home with many British Columbians at some time in their lives.
- Whether they're buying their first condo, starter home, dream or retirement home, they need to have confidence in the home inspector they hired to do the job.
- That's why I'm announcing today that B.C. will be the first province in Canada to license home inspectors.
- For many of us, a home is the biggest investment we'll ever undertake.
- That fact can make everything from choosing a neighborhood to signing a contract both exciting and daunting.
- That's why an array of people are available to see us through the transaction – including home inspectors.
- The whole point of a home inspection is to get a qualified opinion on the condition of the home, so the buyer can have confidence that they are making a good investment.
- So the accuracy and completeness of the report they receive is critical.
- Currently, we have an estimated 300 to 400 home inspectors across B.C.
- Most are members of a professional organization.
- However, the current, voluntary system of certification has left the door open to untrained and unqualified individuals, who increase the risk of incorrect or misleading reports.
- Because of this, consumers and the home inspection industry alike have been calling for licensing to enhance confidence and accountability for all concerned.

- And I want to thank all who contributed to the consultations that have informed today's announcement.
- We have incorporated ideas from all the groups that represent home inspectors we talked to.
- The Province shares their interest in empowering consumers who want to make informed decisions when buying a home.
- This agency will have responsibility for issuing licenses.
- To become licensed, home inspectors will need to meet the qualifications of three groups.
- These are: the 'Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors, BC branch'; the 'Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia'; and the 'National Certification Program for Home and Property Inspectors'.
- Licensing information and application forms will be posted to the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority website February 27.
- The application forms will set out what is required for a license.
- As a part of licensing, home inspectors will be required to carry insurance and complete a criminal record check.
- The BPCPA will also receive and respond to complaints from consumers.
- And its inspections and enforcement will be backed by a progressive range of sanctions and penalties that can range as high as \$5,000.
- All of this is good news for home buyers – and for the integrity of the industry.
- The regulations themselves are clear and concise, and avoid unnecessary overlap and duplication.
- The cost impact is being kept at a minimum, which will be used for administration.
- And while I wanted to ensure we have qualified home inspectors in B.C., I didn't want to bring in a model that would significantly reduce the number of home inspectors available to consumers.
- Ultimately, today's announcement balances a critical consumer interest with a streamlined approach that will protect consumers and enhance the professionalism of the industry.
- Thank you very much.