

House Inspection Issues-Bruce Hunter, CTech, CHI **Comments on CBC-TV**

House inspections have been the focus of media attention this Spring due to alleged questionable house inspection practices. A recent incident, in Kelowna, was reported on by CBC TV.

As the story goes an Inspector who is NOT registered with ASTTBC, completed an inspection which the owner alleges was inadequate. ASTTBC registered Bruce Hunter, CTech, CHI, was called in by CBC TV to offer comment. Bruce noted concerns, stating "From what you're telling me I can't believe it. It's the worst one I've ever heard of". According to the CBC TV reporter, the inspector denies any wrongdoing.

ASTTBC Manager, Property Inspection Registration, Peter Link, CTech, CPI, stressed the importance for ASTTBC to continue to enhance standards for professional certification and continuing competency so ASTTBC can assure the public of the highest quality inspection. While media reports on house inspections this year have not involved ASTTBC inspectors, Peter expressed with concern, "Claims against any home inspector puts a blemish on all inspectors and their respective certification organizations regardless of their track record."

ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech was interviewed the following morning (April 10, 2013) on the CBC Radio Early Morning Show during which he expressed concern about the current Regulation governing house inspectors. "While we applaud the BC Government initiative in 2009 to make licensing mandatory, we believed then and even more strongly today, that the Regulation is inadequate and needs serious overhaul to assure the public of a high quality, professionally-regulated inspector," said Leech. The current Regulation calls on Consumer Protection BC (CPBC) to license house inspectors while designating organizations to provide certification leading to a license issued by CPBC. "The current situation with a total of four separate groups recognized by Consumer Protection BC does not serve the best interest of the consumer," said Leech. ASTTBC is calling for changes to the Regulation which will bring in one and not four separate standards for professional certification.

Leech points to ASTTBC as having a mandate through self-governing professional legislation as one body fully capable of providing professional regulation for inspectors in BC. "Two of the currently recognized organizations are based in Ontario, and one has 5 licensed inspectors in BC. Without calling into question the inspectors or the organizations, I cannot see how a system which recognizes four separate and very distinct organizations can adequately assure the public of professional regulation." Leech went further to express concern about out-of-province associations providing professional certification. "High standards for certification, a track record as a professional regulator and the capacity to regulate are key elements that should be considered by Government when changing the Regulation." Leech concluded by noting that there is only one association in BC regulating groups such as engineering technologists/technicians, nurses, engineers or any other professionals and wondered why there would be more than one association regulating house inspectors.

ASTTBC has 10,000 technology professionals registered under the ASTT Act and Regulations, an annual budget of \$3million and a staff of 30 full and part time. ASTTBC has the mandate, culture and capacity to effectively deliver professional assurance to the public.