



June 2008

## British Columbia Private Home Inspectors: Under the Spotlight

Given the well recognized problems in the home construction and home renovation industries, Canadians for Properly Built Homes (CPBH) has adopted the position that purchasers – whether purchasing a newly built home or a resale home – should have the home inspected by a qualified home inspector before purchasing the home. However, there have been many questions raised regarding what constitutes a qualified home inspector. Unfortunately, many consumers have had serious issues with the services of their private home inspector. On May 30, 2008, Mike Holmes (of the hit television series *Holmes on Homes*) reported on CTV's *Canada AM* that the biggest problem he hears about is private home inspectors.

The Province of British Columbia has taken note of the importance of consumer protection in relation to private home inspectors. According to a document released by BC's Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, "*Public Safety and Solicitor General Minister John Les has directed the Ministry to develop a regulatory framework under the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act requiring a licence to practice as a home inspector and establishing other rules to protect consumers. Regulations are intended to enhance consumer protection and to give consumers confidence that standards of qualification are in place....*"

The BC provincial government has recently concluded a consultation phase during which interested parties were invited to provide their views on issues concerning private home inspectors. CPBH provided input into this consultation process. The BC provincial government expects to implement the regulatory framework by the fall of 2008.