

A Joint Statement by the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Industry in Canada

A properly designed and properly installed HVAC system is critical for home comfort and for the safety and health of occupants. Recent reports about the inadequate performance and installation quality of HVAC systems in new residential construction have prompted several concerned industry associations to form a coalition in support of *Canadians for Properly Built Homes*¹ for the purpose of communicating publically on how these concerns should be addressed. Representing over 2,000 firms engaged in the HVAC and plumbing industry (as indicated by our signatures below), we want governments, the homebuilding industry and consumers to know that we hold firmly to the following principles:

1. As a minimum, Canadians purchasing newly built homes are entitled to enforcement of government requirements with respect to the design, installation and inspection of residential HVAC systems.
2. Although not current practice in all locations, residential HVAC systems should be:
 - a. Designed by a professional engineer, engineering technologist or certified designer/technician meeting jurisdictional requirements, as evidenced by acceptable documentation and good practices associated with professional design services.
 - b. Installed by certified trades people meeting jurisdictional requirements as proven by acceptable licenses, insurance, certificates etc., using best practices associated with professional trade services.
 - c. Inspected by representatives having authority, who are qualified in HVAC inspections to ensure that:
 - i. all applicable regulations and bylaws have been met; and
 - ii. the system conforms to the design submittal documents used to obtain the installation permit.

In support of the *Canadians for Properly Built Homes' HVAC Initiative*, the undersigned collectively wish to advise the general public and those having authority over HVAC systems in Canada that:

1. formal provincial and industry-led HVAC education and certification programs exist for designers, tradespersons and inspectors;

¹ Canadians for Properly Built Homes (CPBH) is a national, not-for-profit corporation dedicated to healthy, safe, durable, energy-efficient residential housing for Canadians, and is the only organization of its kind in Canada. Working for consumer awareness and protection, CPBH is run by a volunteer Board of Directors and is supported by a volunteer Advisory Council of industry experts and other key stakeholders. CPBH has earned "partner" status with the Canadian Consumer Information Gateway (Industry Canada).

2. there are authoritative regulations, bylaws and codes affecting HVAC systems in Canada that need to be enforced; and
3. there is an immediate need to elevate the design, installation and commissioning of HVAC systems across Canada beyond current minimum requirements.

By way of this joint statement and supported by our collective purpose, Canadians purchasing newly built homes are strongly encouraged to use this statement in seeking out written evidence from the appropriate authority that the HVAC system has indeed been designed and installed by certified professionals and inspected by qualified representatives of the authorities having jurisdiction before taking possession of the home.

Signed this 30th day of May, 2013,

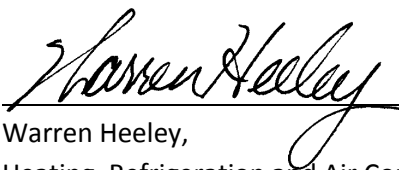
In alphabetical order,



Ralph Suppa,
Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating (CIPH)



Stephen Koch,
Canadian Oil Heat Association (COHA)



Warren Heeley,
Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI)



Kim Savage,
Thermal Environmental Comfort Association of British Columbia (TECA)