



Certification & Designation Proposal

January 30, 2025

Promoting Building Safety and Professionalism

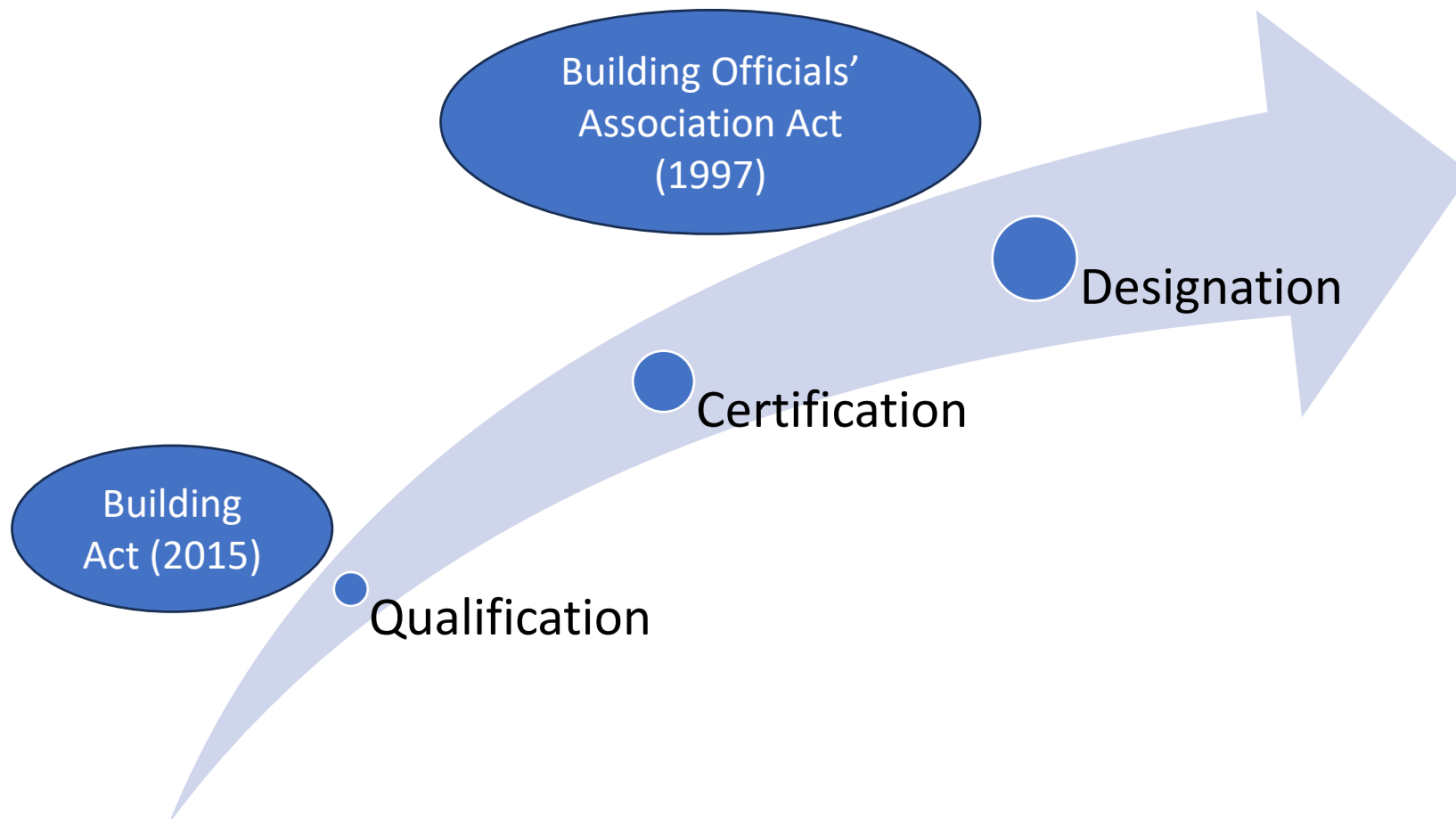


Agenda

- Context
- Proposed Changes
- Next Steps
- Questions & Discussion

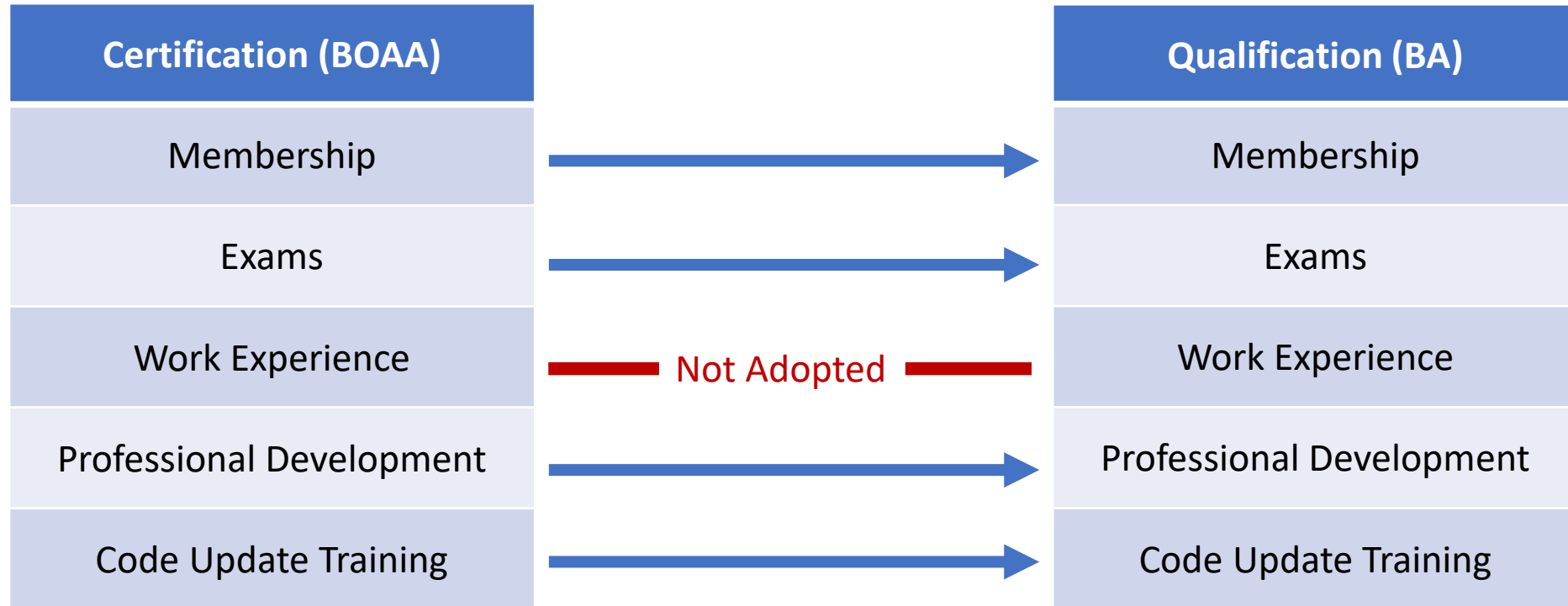


Code Official Credentials in BC





Certification Vs Qualification





Reasons to Review

- *Building Act*
- Governance review
- Stakeholder feedback
- Changes to the occupation and context
- Good practice



Here's what members said in fall 2023...

- Unclear on the purpose and difference between credentials
- Certification is a means to employment, compensation, elevated standing amongst peers
- Certification should be a means to improving professionalism, verifying work experience, and increasing consistency amongst code officials
- Certification should require 'relevant experience'
- There should be designations for plumbing officials



Goals

- Based on your feedback, the working group set out to:
 - 1) clarify the purpose and goals of code official credentials
 - 2) enhance the competency and professionalism of code officials
 - 3) incorporate 'relevant experience' into certification
 - 4) maintain access to designations across B.C.
 - 5) align building and plumbing official credentials



Credential Purpose & Goals

Proposing to focus of the certification and designation programs.

- The Association certification program focuses on enhancing the technical competencies that are needed to practice effectively within the scope of practice for each level of building and plumbing official
- The Association designation program focuses on enhancing the professional competencies that building and plumbing officials need to practice effectively regardless of their specific scope of practice
- ***Supports goals 1 and 2***



Relevant Experience

Proposing to require relevant experience for certification

- Relevant experience is making compliance decisions for construction and building types within the regulated scope of practice for a level of qualified building or plumbing official
- ***Supports goals 2, 3, 5***



Relevant Experience

Proposing to require 24 months of relevant experience for each level of certification

Building		Plumbing	
Level 1	24 months of relevant experience	Level 1	24 months of relevant experience
Level 2	24 months of relevant experience	Level 2	24 months of relevant experience
Level 3	24 months of relevant experience		

- ***Supports goals 3 and 5***



Provincial Access

Proposing to allow a certified code official of any level to be eligible to for a designation.

- Maintains provincial access to designations while requiring 'relevant experience' for certification
- Recognizes the difference between technical competence and professionalism
- Consistent with other credentials
- ***Supports goals 2 and 4***



Plumbing Official Credentials

Proposing to create designations for plumbing officials

- Registered Plumbing Official and Plumbing Code Qualified designations established in Association bylaws
- Trade certification as a plumber needed to be eligible for RPO designation
- ***Supports goals 2 and 5***



Education

Proposing to establish specific educational requirements for certification and designations.

- Education will be aligned with program purpose & goals, national occupational standard for professional building officials
- Some elements are already identified in Association business plans and others will be developed through further consultation with members and stakeholders
- ***Supports goals 1 and 2***



Future Course Offerings

Future Course Offerings for Code Officials

Ethics for Code Officials

Law for Code Officials

Communications for Code Officials

Plan Reviews for Code Officials

Site Inspections for Code Officials

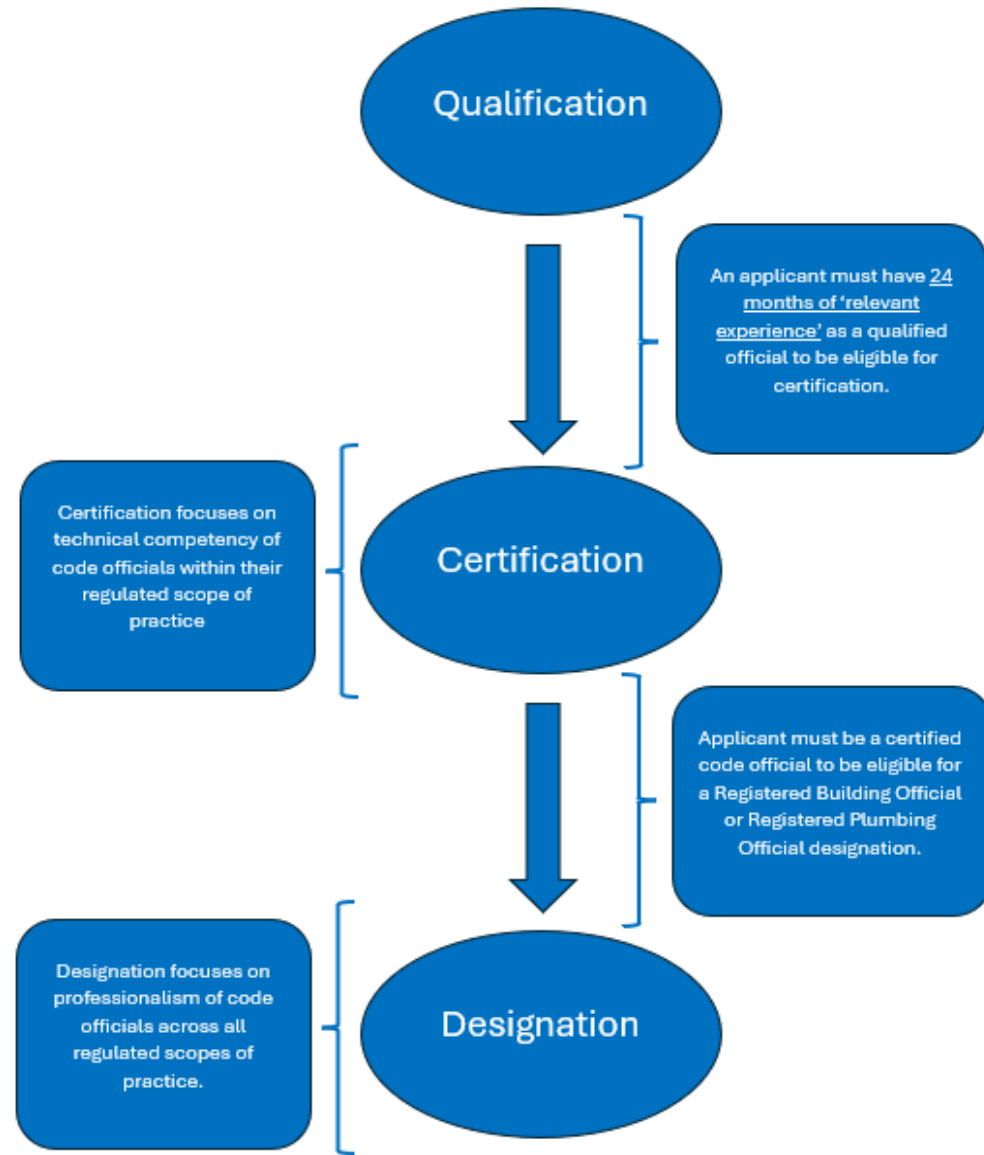
Alternative Solutions for Code Officials

Compliance & Investigations for Code Officials

- *Building Code Level 1*
- *Building Code Level 2*
- *Building Code Level 3*
- *Plumbing Code Level 1*
- *Plumbing Code Level 2*
- *Energy Efficiency for Code Officials*
- *Mechanical Systems for Code Officials*



Updated Credential Framework





Proposal Outcomes

Increase value for the public and stakeholders

- Public gets service from better trained code officials
- Code officials are better trained with enhanced professionalism
- Local authorities hire better trained employees, more confidence in Association credentials
- Supports the Provincial goal of enhancing code official competency and professionalism
- Association has more rigorous programs that align with recognized practice



Next Steps (2025-26)

- Feedback (2024-25)
 - Executive Committee
 - Stakeholder Engagement
 - Focus groups (code official, local authority)
- Update & Approve (2025-26)
 - Working Group
 - Executive Committee
 - Communicate
- Implement (2026-27)
 - Policy development
 - Forms and templates
 - System development



Questions?