

**FAQ's**  
**LEED Canada Accredited Professional (LEED AP) Program**  
**20<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

In 2010 the Green Building Certification Institute GBCI will take responsibility for administering the LEED Accreditation Professional Exams in Canada. This will include the development of all new LEED exams, and administration of the new credentialing maintenance program. Exams will continue to be delivered through the Prometric Test Centres across Canada. The changes mark a significant improvement in the evolution of the LEED AP Program.

The following information is intended to provide more information to green building practitioners and existing LEED AP's about the changes you can expect to see in Canada. This FAQ sheet will be updated regularly as new information is received and posted.

**1. Who is the GBCI and what is their role developing and delivering LEED exams?**

The Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) was spun off by USGBC to administer credentialing and certification programs related to green building practice. The GBCI provides true 3<sup>rd</sup> party verification; development, analysis, and audit functions for LEED APs.

One of the first activities undertaken by the GBCI was a survey to understand what the LEED AP designation meant to LEED AP's across the US and Canada. Through this research the GBCI identified 3 market challenges that must be met to continue to support LEED AP's. These challenges included a LEED AP that stayed current, differentiated expertise among green building practitioners and specialization within different sectors of the industry.

Changes to the LEED AP program will evolve to include:

- 3 levels of excellence for a professional to pursue. This improves upon the current LEED Accreditation system by providing a mechanism to recognize knowledge and expertise beyond a basic understanding of green building practices. A tiered credentialing system allows the marketplace to distinguish between practitioners with basic, advanced, and extraordinary levels of knowledge.
- Eligibility requirements for all levels of the exam system
- Credentialing maintenance will be required for all levels of the exam. As sustainable technologies advance and the LEED rating system evolves, the LEED accreditation system needs a mechanism to ensure that LEED Professions have the latest knowledge and understanding of green building practices.

**2. What are the new credentialing tiers and exams?**

Tier I: LEED Green Associate

Evolving good environmental practice and being the first step in the LEED professionals career pathway, the LEED Green Associate credential attests to demonstrated knowledge and skill in understanding and supporting green design, construction and operations.

*Exam: LEED Green Associate*

Tier II: LEED AP with Specialization

The LEED AP with specialization credential signifies an extraordinary depth of knowledge in green building practices and specialization in a particular field: commercial building design & construction, commercial operations & maintenance, commercial interiors, residential design & construction, and neighbourhood development.

*Exams: LEED AP Operations + Maintenance*

*LEED AP Homes*

*LEED AP Building Design + Construction*

*LEED AP Interior Design +Construction*

*LEED AP Neighbourhood Development*

Tier III: LEED AP Fellow

LEED Fellows enter an elite class of leading professionals who are distinguished by their years of experience and a peer review of their project portfolio. Fellows contribute to the standards of practice and body of knowledge for achieving continuous improvement in the green building field.

*Exam: program requirements are currently in development*

**3. Will the CaGBC be replacing the current LEED Canada NC and LEED Canada CI exams?**

Yes, the existing exam tracks will be replaced in early 2010. The CaGBC **will not** replace the existing LEED Canada exams in 2009 – meaning they will remain available in Canada at least until the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009. When the existing LEED Canada exams are phased out, there will be a registration deadline (last date to register for the exams), followed by the last date that the exams can be written. These dates will be published during the summer.

**4. What are the eligibility requirements?**

All 3 credentialing levels will have eligibility requirements, for more information visit [www.gbci.org](http://www.gbci.org). Note that the GBCI website is not yet translated to French.

**5. Should I write an existing LEED Canada exam, or should I wait for the new exams?**

The answer to that question is up to you.

**6. If I am already a LEED AP, what happens to me?**

Existing LEED AP's will have the option to 'opt in', or not, to the new credentialing maintenance program (dates to be confirmed).

For those that opt in they have two choices, to pursue either the LEED Green Associate credential, or the LEED AP with specialization. If you choose to become a LEED Green Associate, then you must meet the credentialing requirements for this credential. If you choose to become a LEED AP with specialization, then you must demonstrate equivalency with the new exams in one of two ways:

- i. Meet prescriptive continuing education requirements (visit [www.gbci.org](http://www.gbci.org) for detail), or;
- ii. Write the new LEED AP exam with specialization

For those that do not opt in to the new credentialing maintenance program, they will need to:

- i. Do nothing. You will continue to enjoy your LEED AP designation; and your name will continue to be found in the CaGBC LEED AP database.

**7. What if I want to write one of the new GBCI specialty exams, such as Operations & Maintenance or Homes?**

First, you will have to meet the eligibility requirements to write the LEED Green Associate exam. Secondly, you will have to meet the eligibility requirements to write the Operations & Maintenance exam. You can write both exams at the same time, or space them out.

**8. Is there a date at which we need to opt in to the new credentialing maintenance program?**

This has not yet been determined.

**9. Will I require continuing education in the future?**

The GBCI’s new Credentialing Maintenance Program (CMP) will support the new credentials. This means that LEED Green Associates will need to achieve 15 continuing education credits during a 2 year continuing education cycle, and LEED AP’s (with specialization) will need to achieve 30 continuing education credits. To find out how you can achieve your continuing education credits visit [www.gbci.org](http://www.gbci.org).

**10. When do I need to complete my credentialing maintenance requirements?**

This has not yet been determined.

**11. When can I write the new GBCI exams in Canada?**

The CaGBC is working with the GBCI to determine when the new exams will be ready for release in Canada. More information will be posted over the summer.

**12. When will the exams be available in French?**

The exams will be made available in English and French at the same time.

**13. Will there be reciprocity between the USGBC & the CaGBC with the new exams?**

Your new GBCI credential will be recognized by the USGBC as well.

**14. How can I study for the upcoming exams?**

The CaGBC is developing new training workshops to help practitioners prepare for the new exams. Table 1 outlines the training that will be available.

*Table 1*

Exam	Workshop	Date Available	Registration Open on CaGBC website
LEED Green Associate	LEED Core Concepts and Strategies	September	Yes
LEED AP Operations + Maintenance	& Maintenance – The LEED Implementation Process	October	Yes
LEED AP Building Design + Construction	Building Design & Construction – The LEED Implementation Process	Q1 2010	No
LEED AP Homes	LEED Canada for Homes – The LEED Implementation Process	Q1 2010	No
LEED AP Interior Design + Construction	Interior Design & Construction – The LEED Implementation Process	2010	No
LEED AP Neighbourhood Development	TBD	2010	No