

BENEFITS OF LHCP CERTIFICATION

CNLA's Professional Development Committee (PDC) performed a survey to gauge perceptions of the benefits of certification from industry practitioners across Canada. A small sample of 105 certified members and 12 accredited companies was surveyed over a 4-week period in 2021.

IMPROVES SAFETY, SKILLS, PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY



Increased safety awareness

Over three-quarters of certified people and all business owners reported an enhanced safety awareness with certification. Embedding safety and safe practices, correct use of PPEs, pre-operation equipment inspection, etc., in all operations minimizes exposure to potential liability.



I learned a lot...how to deal with customers, how to merchandise, drive a forklift, plant a tree etc. I was able to apply my education in a practical way

- Cara Pagnucco, CLHT,
Blue Grass Ltd, Ricky View County, AB



The focus on safety during the certification tests helped me realize that the cost of being unaware of safety is much more than failing a test, it is health, enjoyment of life, and sometimes life itself.

- Ann McGillis, CLHT, Westflora Landscaping,
North Vancouver, BC



Increased skills

More than 4 in 5 certified people are better able to perform landscape horticulture operations according to industry standard and seek to develop better business and interpersonal skills. Business owners reported increased skill levels with their certified staff,



Improved efficiency and productivity

Over two thirds (69%) of certified people reported they gained knowledge of the correct procedures, tools, materials and technology to perform tasks that improved their individual efficiencies which translated to corporate savings and improved public perception of the industry.

Motivated to acquire new skills

More than 4 in 5 certified people acquired additional technical certifications and licenses including earning new LHCP designations and CLHT modules.



PROMOTES CAREER ADVANCEMENT



A proud career accomplishment

Nearly all respondents (97%) are proud of their certification stating that it validates individual skill set, boosts credibility and grants access to an elitist group of high performing professionals.



Recommend Certification

Nearly all respondents (97%) recommend certification reporting that it proves competence, opens doors to new opportunities, keeps one abreast of innovations and advances the industry.



I now see the landscape industry as a career, not just a job

- Jake Woudstra CLHM,
Pro Lawn Landscaping Ltd.
Orono, ON

Increased career commitment

More than 4 in 5 (81%) certified people recognize certification made them more committed to their career and report that it raised their perception of landscape horticulture as a secure career option.



My extra drawing time is charged to the client. I charge double now for my services as before certification

- Lexi Dearborn, CLD,
Dearborn Designs & Associates,
Barrie, ON



Increased income

Over three-quarters of certified people reported more income from improved profitability, salary raises, higher charge rates, more job opportunities and the ability to start their own business. Business owners report that having certified staff enabled them to tender and successfully close contract bids; charge up to 50% more for their services; and achieve up to 50% growth in annual sales.



Glad to be certified

Nearly all respondents (99%) are glad they became certified stating that it serves to distinguish their performance and reassures clients and contractors of their expertise and professionalism.



FOSTERS WORKPLACE RELATIONS & JOB RETENTION



Useful staff retention tool

Even though 80% of business owners use their support for certification as a recruitment tool, only just above one-quarter (28%) of certified people sought work with their employer because they support certification but close to half (44%) of them have remained with their employer for the same reason.



Received support from employer

Three quarters (75%) of certified people received support from their employers in the form of training, giving time off for exams, covering the cost of exam registration, recertification, among others.

All business owners agreed certification increased productivity with one respondent citing up to 75% increased productivity with certified staff.



More loyal to employer

Nearly 60% of certified people feel more loyal to their employer for supporting their certification. They recognize their employers' investment in their careers which in turn increases their job security and obligation to remain at their jobs. Certified people reported that their employers are willing to support certification because they see how it enriches their staff and nearly all business owners (90%) agree that supporting certification leads to better staff retention.

// My certification increased my commitment to join trade associations... led me to acknowledge and work with other high achievers in the landscape industry...encourages me to keep learning and to apply best practices, knowledge and professionalism to my projects.

- Anita Jackson CLD
Anita Jackson Consulting Services,
Seabright, NS





Accreditation is important to highlight qualified companies within the industry and is a good career achievement.

- Mike Prong, CLHT,
Fern Ridge Landscaping & Eco-consulting,
Milton, ON



The 7 Steps to GET CERTIFIED!

1

Choose the designation(s) and specialization(s) you would like to pursue. Visit the Landscape Horticulture Certification Program (LHCP) website for guidance to make your selection.

2

Download the appropriate study manual order forms for your designation and specialization from the website. Complete and email it to CNLA for processing.

3

Study to prepare for your certification exams

4

When you feel ready to commence the certification exams, download the correct exam registration form for your designation from the website.

5

Complete and email your exam registration form to CNLA.

6

Once your exam registration is processed,

CLHT CANDIDATES WILL RECEIVE:

- Email with login credentials and detailed guidelines for completing hands-on practical tests in Valid-8. Your Valid-8 subscription is valid for one year during which period you have unlimited access to submit evidence for assessment.
- One-time links and detailed guidelines for taking written tests in Mettl. You will receive new links to retake failed tests multiple times at no extra charge.

CLD CANDIDATES WILL RECEIVE:

- Email with one-time links and detailed guidelines for taking written tests in Mettl. A retest fee is charged to issue new links to retake failed tests.

CLHM CANDIDATES WILL RECEIVE:

- Email with one-time links and detailed guidelines for taking written tests in Mettl. A retest fee is charged to issue new links to retake failed tests.

7

Complete all assigned hands-on practical and written test units to earn your designation.

You are CERTIFIED when:

CLHT CANDIDATES:

- Evidence submitted for assigned hands-on units are assessed to have met industry standards.
- Assigned written tests are passed with a score of 70% or higher.

CLD CANDIDATES:

- Assigned written tests are passed with a score of 70% or higher.
- Portfolio review of three landscape design projects in which the candidate played the lead design role is successfully completed.

CLHM CANDIDATES:

- Assigned written tests are passed with a score of 70% or higher.



LHCP is a program of the CNLA.



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