

VALUATIONS | APPRAISAL REVIEW | CONSULTING | FEASIBILITY STUDIES | DUE DILIGENCE





INDUSTRY GUIDE

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About this Guide

The Appraisal Institute of Canada (AIC) has developed this guide to provide current and prospective real property owners and investors with advice and guidance on how to:

- effectively hire a professional appraiser to complete an appraisal of their property; and,
- understand the process of appraising real estate.

Property owners and investors can save time, expenses and heartache by first consulting with an AIC-Designated Member (AACI or CRA) to conduct a comprehensive valuation of their property.

Visit the AIC website at www.AICanada.ca to find an appraiser in your area.





1. ABOUTTHE APPRAISAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Founded in 1938, the Appraisal Institute of Canada (AIC) is the premier real property valuation association in Canada. The AIC is a self-regulating professional organization with over 4800 members across the country.

Education and Accreditation

AIC grants the distinguished Accredited Appraiser Canadian Institute - AACI™ and Canadian Residential Appraiser - CRA™ designations to individuals across Canada and around the world.

An **AACI™** designated member may undertake any real property assignment where they have demonstrated competence with the real property type and the geographic and market influences that impact value. Property types can include but are not limited to: residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, agricultural, land and special use.

A **CRA**TM designated member may undertake a residential real property assignment where they have demonstrated competence with the residential property type and the geographic and market influences that impact value on residential dwellings containing not more than four (4) self-contained family housing units or an individual undeveloped residential dwelling site.

These designations recognize highly qualified individuals who have completed the AlC's rigorous curriculum, experience and examination requirements. Wherever the member's name appears, their AlC designation or their status as an AlC Candidate Member shall be included. This is intended to include letters of transmittal, report, certification, and any correspondence pertaining to the member's scope of professional appraisal, review, consulting and reserve fund planning services.

AIC encourages consumers and investors to engage qualified real estate appraisers affiliated with a strong professional association such as the AIC to obtain an independent valuation of their property prior to developing, buying, financing, renovating or refinancing.

2. AIC STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL PRACTICE (CUSPAP)

An appraiser's professional and ethical responsibility is to provide an independent and unbiased opinion of the value of the subject property. As a self-regulating body, AIC has established ethics and standards to help ensure members fulfill their obligations to their clients. To ensure they maintain their skills AIC members are also required to engage in Continuing Professional Development activities. In addition to the requirement to comply to AIC's Standards, commonly known as Canadian Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (CUSPAP), in some provinces, AIC members must also adhere to their respective provincial licensing requirements (i.e. Alberta, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick).

A designated appraiser must also abide by AIC's Code of Conduct in undertaking any appraisal assignment and be registered in AIC's mandatory Professional Liability Insurance Program.

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3. IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A QUALIFIED AIC APPRAISAL PROFESSIONAL AMONG YOUR TEAM OF EXPERTS

AIC members are engaged by a wide range of clients to provide a professional and independent opinion on the quality, value, or utility of a specific property. Whenever real estate is sold, mortgaged, assessed, insured, or developed, an AIC-designated appraiser should be part of your team of experts.

Value-Add of an AIC- Designated Appraiser

It is important to know the real value of a property before making any business or personal decisions. AIC-designated appraisers are highly qualified professionals, who are trained to complete appraisal, appraisal review, and appraisal consulting assignments for many types of real property including, but not limited to:

- residential dwellings
- shopping centers
- hotels and other lodging facilities
- office buildings
- rental properties
- condominiums

- industrial sites
- vacant land, parking sites
- special purpose properties
- recreational properties
- agricultural properties
- retirement and long-term care facilities

Experts in Their Field

Opportunities abound for AIC-Designated Members to broaden their scope of work, and with the breadth and depth of the AIC's membership comes specialized expertise in niche areas such as, but not limited to:

- arbitration, mediation, negotiation
- expert testimony, litigation support
- due diligence and best practice
- business valuation
- tax assessment appeals
- feasibility studies
- cost-benefit studies
- market analysis and market rent studies
- reserve fund studies
- asset/portfolio management

AIC-designated appraisers are the Appraisal Professionals of Choice





4. KEYTHINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN HIRING AN AIC-DESIGNATED APPRAISER

4.1 Who is the Appraiser's Client?

Appraisers work on a confidential basis with their clients (known as client-appraiser relationship), in the same fashion as other professionals such as lawyers and accountants. When a property owner, lawyer, government body, lending institution, mortgage broker or any other entity requests an appraisal, they are the appraiser's client, regardless of who pays the appraisal fee. Under the AIC's Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, any discussions on or disclosure of information contained in an appraisal report must be done with the written consent of the appraiser's client.

By hiring an AIC-designated appraiser, you become the appraiser's client. As such, you:

- retain a qualified professional who has successfully completed the AIC's rigorous education, field experience and examination requirements that each AIC designation demands;
- engage a professional who adheres to the AIC's Code of Conduct and Standards of professional appraisal practice; and,
- receive an independent and unbiased opinion of value supported by comprehensive market research and analyses.

4.2 Terms of Reference of the Appraisal Assignment

The Terms of Reference for the appraisal assignment should be in writing and agreed to by the parties prior to the assignment to avoid any misunderstanding or additional work to amend the valuation report. The typical terms and conditions that should be taken into consideration when hiring a designated appraiser include the following:

TIPS TO HIRING A REAL ESTATE APPRAISER

- 1. Ask the appraiser for their professional designation. Be sure the appraiser is a member of strong professional association such as the Appraisal Institute of Canada. Go to AlCanada. ca to "Find an appraiser".
- 2. Ask the professional appraiser about his/her qualifications; ensure the AIC member holds either the AACI (Accredited Appraiser Canadian Institute) or CRA (Canadian Residential Appraiser) designation or is an AIC Candidate Member.
- 3. Ask the professional appraiser about his/her competence, experience and expertise in the valuation of your type of property.
- 4. Ask the professional appraiser how much they will charge for appraising your property and what the fee includes.
- 5. Ask for and verify references!
- Appraiser's Client: The client is not necessarily the one who pays
 for the report but rather the one ordering the appraisal report.
 Make sure the appropriate party provides the instructions to
 prepare the appraisal to avoid limitations in accessing the report
 or speaking with the appraiser due to confidentiality.
- **Purpose of the Appraisal Assignment:** The purpose of the appraisal states what value is being estimated in response to the client's intended use or needs.

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- Intended Use of the Appraisal Report: Identifies the client's intended use of the appraiser's reported opinions and conclusions in the appraisal report (i.e. first mortgage financing, refinancing). This allows the appraiser to engage in the proper scope of work that will be required and provide any specialized advice necessary to support the intended use.
- Intended User(s) of the Appraisal Report: Defines to whom the AIC-Designated Member can expect to provide a copy of the report. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of and use the appraisal report must contact the appraiser's client. The appraiser can provide a copy of the report to the property owner (if not the client) or a third party provided that the appraiser obtains his or her client's permission preferably in writing.
- Effective Date of the Appraisal Report: This can be the date of inspection or any other reasonable date in the circumstances. The date can be current, past ("retrospective") or future ("prospective").
- Assumptions Made in the Analysis and Limiting
 Conditions that may Impact the Value: Specific conditions
 to an appraisal assignment known as Assumptions and
 Limiting Conditions should be discussed in advance and
 confirmed in writing by the appraiser as being appropriate for
 the valuation.

- Conflict of Interest: The appraiser must disclose any conflict prior to taking on an assignment or as soon as uncovered once the appraisal assignment has started. Depending on the nature of the conflict, the appraiser may need to decline an appraisal assignment.
- Type of Appraisal Report: The type of property being appraised and the complexity of the appraisal assignment will typically determine the type of report that will be required as well as the corresponding appraisal fee. An appraisal report leads the reader from the definition of the appraisal problem through the analysis of relevant data to a final estimate of market value.
 - Form Reports are typical in the valuation of residential and small rental (1-4 units) properties.
 - **Short Narrative Reports** set out the key salient facts and conclusions in a summary fashion.
 - **Full Narrative Reports** set out in greater detail the research, conclusions and rationale supporting the opinion.

Regardless of the format used by the AIC appraiser, it remains a professional obligation to ensure that the report complies with the AIC's Standards of professional practice known as the Canadian Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (CUSPAP).

- Appraisal Fee: An agreement on the fee charged for completing the appraisal assignment and identification of the party responsible for making the payment should be negotiated prior to starting the appraisal assignment. As mentioned above, the fee depends on the complexity of the appraisal assignment.
- **Due Date:** This refers to the date that the final valuation report is expected to be delivered.
- Appraiser's Certification of Value: This is the AIC-Designated Member's Certification at the end of an appraisal report which is the appraiser's acceptance of responsibility for the appraisal and the contents of the appraisal report.





5. UNDERSTANDING THE VALUATION PROCESS

5.1 Key Elements of the Valuation Process

Scope of Work: The type and extent of research and analysis in an appraisal assignment includes, but is not limited to:

- the degree to which the property is inspected or identified;
- the extent of research into physical or economic factors that could affect the property;
- the extent of data research; and,
- the type and extent of analysis applied to arrive at opinions or conclusions.

Real Property Ownership and Interests: Real property includes all interests, benefits, and rights inherent in the ownership of real estate.

Bundle of Rights: Ownership rights include the right to use real estate, to sell it, to lease it, to mortgage it, to give it away or to choose to exercise all or none of the rights. Land and everything attached to the land is considered real estate. Real estate appraising involves the valuation of an individual's right to own or use the land.

- Fee simple is the most complete form of ownership.
 A person who owns all the property rights is said to have fee simple title, which implies absolute ownership unencumbered by any other interest or estate.
- Leased fee estate is an ownership interest held by a landlord with the right of use and occupancy conveyed by lease to others. This is most commonly valued property interest for income-producing properties. The lessor and the lessee each have partial interests: the leased fee interest (lessor or landlord) and the leasehold interest (lessee or tenant). Leases specify the rights of both the lessor and the lessee.

- *Taxation* is the right of government to raise revenue through assessments on valuable goods, products, services and rights. The right to tax a property is reserved for provincial and local governments.
- Expropriation is the right of government to take private property for public use; all or part of the owner's rights may be acquired and usually just compensation is paid to the owner.
- *Police power* is the right of government through which property is regulated to protect public safety, health, morals and general welfare (i.e. zoning, use restrictions, building codes, environmental regulations).
- Escheat is the right of government that gives the government titular ownership of a property when its owner dies without a will or any statutory heirs.

Zoning and Land Use Controls: The appraiser must identify the zoning for the subject and analyze the effect of land use controls on the use and value of the site, along with any probable modifications due to changes in regulations (i.e. at the municipal, provincial and/or federal levels).

Highest and Best Use: The report must contain the appraiser's opinion as to the highest and best use of the property being appraised. If the purpose of the assignment is to provide a market value, the appraiser's support and rationale for the opinion of highest and best use is required. The appraiser's reasoning in support of the opinion must be based on the relevant legal, physical and economic factors. As land is usually appraised as though vacant and available for development to its highest and best use, the appraiser must provide opinions as to the highest and best use of:

- the land, as if vacant; and,
- the property, if improved.

Describe and Analyze: The appraiser must take reasonable steps to ensure that the information and analyses provided in the report are sufficient for the client and intended users to adequately understand the rationale for the opinion and conclusions.



All three valuation approaches (Direct Comparison Approach, Cost Approach and Income Approach as described in Section 5.3) require the collection of comparable data. The decision to inspect comparables and the extent of verification of data will be determined by the scope of the work involved in the assignment.

Characteristics of the Property: Relevant to the purpose and intended use of the report, the following must be analyzed and included in the report:

- the property identification by civic address and/or legal description or other reference to describe the location of the property;
- the real property interest to be valued;
- physical, legal and economic attributes;
- any personal property, trade fixtures or intangible items that are not real property but are included in the appraisal;
- any known or apparent title restrictions, easements, encumbrances, leases, reservations, covenants, contracts, judgments, special assessments, liens, or other items of a similar nature:
- consideration of known detrimental conditions; and,
- the extent of inspection of the subject property.

5.2 The Property Inspection

An inspection is just one of the many tasks performed by an appraiser. An appraiser prepares a building description by considering a variety of specific information and must be familiar with the structural details of the exterior and interior of the building that will influence value in the marketplace. The appraiser's inspection takes into account a number of elements including:

- physical characteristics of the building and any outbuilding;
- interior/exterior finishes of the building;
- equipment and mechanical systems

 (i.e. elevators, access ramps, electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling systems);
- quality of the improvements (i.e. poor, average, good, excellent);

- different types of units, their size and functionality of their layouts (i.e. adapted units, bachelor, 1, 2 or 3 bedroom units); and,
- elements of depreciation from any deficiencies or required repairs (i.e. *physical depreciation* wear and tear from regular use; *functional depreciation* aspects of a building that diminish function, utility and value of the improvement; *external depreciation* impairments due to influences outside the property).

In addition to understanding the dynamics of the real estate market, AIC-designated appraisers also have construction skills and knowledge, which are fundamental to their training. Members also rely on the expertise of industry professionals where building characteristics are more complex.

BE AWARE! Property owners must be mindful that under the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Document Act (PIPEDA), the appraiser must obtain the occupant's consent (i.e. tenant in multi-residential properties) either in writing or verbally, prior to taking interior photographs.

As part of the inspection process, the appraiser will:

- set a convenient time for an inspection; where the property is tenant occupied, sufficient notice to tenants is required and must be in accordance with the provisions in their lease.
- collect as much information as possible during the inspection to provide the Client and the Intended User with a detailed account of the design, layout and construction details of the property's improvements and the improvements typically accepted in the subject market.
- take interior and exterior photographs to provide a visual representation of the data described in the report. Exterior photographs are important to clearly identify the property and its characteristics. Sometimes, interior photographs are requested by the appraiser's client or required; the taking of tenant-occupied units requires the occupant's consent.



- ask about important features of the property such as the original date of construction, dates of any major additions or renovations, and extra features, to name a few.
- gather information about recent marketing activity on the property (i.e. sales and listing history). While public information is often available, the appraiser may inquire about any listings of the property (including private listings) or offers to purchase in the past twelve months, as well as any sales of the property for the previous three years.

Property owners often want a preliminary estimate of value before the appraiser leaves the property. It is important to note that most of the valuation process occurs after the inspection. The inspection allows the appraiser to gather sufficient information to properly describe the property and compare it to similar properties in the subject marketplace.

Estimating the market value of any property requires the appraiser to complete a thorough analysis of the market conditions and factors that influence property values (i.e. population and demographic; economic forces such as supply and demand; local zoning, provincial and/or national building codes; national and provincial taxation policies; rent controls, building restrictions and land use controls, to name a few).

Valuation can be a complex process that involves collecting and analyzing anywhere between 3 - 10 (or more) comparable properties in order to form a reliable estimate of market value. When hiring an appraiser you are paying for an independent and unbiased opinion of value of a property by a qualified appraisal professional.

Reasoning: Reasoning requires the logical review, analyses and interpretation of the data in a manner that would support the conclusion and not mislead the reader.

Agreement for Sale/Option/Listing: Any agreement for sale, option, lease, if applicable, or listing of the subject property that occurred within 1 year prior to the date of valuation, including any pending/current Contract of Purchase and Sale or lease, if such information is available, must be analyzed and reported by the appraiser.

Prior Sales: Any sale of the subject property that occurred within three years prior to the effective date of the appraisal, if such information is available as at the date of valuation, must be analyzed and reported by the appraiser. Additionally, any impact on the price paid under known undue stimulus must be reported in the appraisal report.

5.3 Valuation Methodologies

5.3.1. DIRECT COMPARISON APPROACH

When the Direct Comparison Approach is applicable, the appraiser develops an opinion of value by analyzing completed sales, listings or pending sales of properties that are similar to the subject property. Estimates of market rent, expenses, land value, cost, depreciation and other value parameters may be derived using a comparative technique.

The Direct Comparison Approach is the process of:

- Comparing properties similar to the subject property that have recently sold;
- Identifying appropriate units of comparison (i.e. price per square foot, price per square meter, price per acre, price per room, price per unit, etc.);
- Making adjustments to the sale prices (or unit prices) of the comparable properties based on market-derived elements of comparison; and,
- Reconciling the adjusted sales prices (or unit prices) of the comparable properties into an opinion of value, either a single value indication or a range of value.

Various analytical techniques may be used to identify and measure adjustments, which may be quantitative or qualitative. The first step in the comparative analysis is to identify which elements of comparison affect property values in the subject market. Each of the elements is tested by one or more techniques to determine whether market data supports an adjustment.

Paired data set analysis is a process in which two or more market sales are compared to derive an indication of the size

of the adjustment for a single characteristic. Ideally the sales being compared will be identical in all respects except for the element being measured; however, this is rarely the case. Frequently, an appraiser must undertake a series of paired data set analyses to isolate the effect of a single characteristic, which can be complex when the subject property offers distinct and unique characteristics from the market. When limited data is available, the appraiser will use other analytical procedures to test the reasonableness of the adjustment.

As part of the reconciliation process, the appraiser must review and reconcile:

- the quality and quantity of data available and analyzed within the valuation approaches used; and,
- the applicability and reliability of those approaches in the context of the scope of the assignment.

The result is a final value which may be a single point value or a range of values.

Comparable sales analysis can provide information used in the other approaches such as overall capitalization rates for the Income Approach or depreciation estimates for the Cost Approach (see sections 5.3.2 and 5.3.3 below). Income multipliers, capitalization rates, and yield rates are applied in the Income Approach but appraisers extract such rates and factors from comparable properties in the direct comparison analysis.

The following grid allows the appraiser to define the units of comparison and list the locational, physical and other characteristics of the subject and the comparable properties in order to complete the comparative analysis. Market derived quantitative and/or qualitative adjustments are applied to adjust the sale price of each comparable property to equate it to the subject property.

Subject	Comparable No. 1		Comparable No. 2		Comparable No. 3	
Description	Adjustment	Description	Adjustment	Description	Adjustment	
Data Source						
Date of Sale						
Sale Price						
Days on Market						
Location						
Site Size						
Building Type						
Design/Style						
Age/Condition						
Liveable Floor Area						
Room Count						
Basement						
Parking						
Other Characteristics						
Total Adjustments						
Adjusted Values						





5.3.2 COST APPROACH

The Cost Approach considers the land and building components separately, and reaches a value conclusion by adding these estimates together to form an opinion of value. Like the Direct Comparison Approach, the Cost Approach is based on a comparison of the cost to replace the subject (cost new) or the cost to reproduce the subject (substitute property). The total cost estimate is then adjusted by deducting the accrued depreciation in the subject property. Land value is also estimated and added to the building value.

When the Cost Approach is applicable, an appraiser must:
Step 1: Estimate the value of the site as through vacant
and available to be developed to its highest and best
use; this is based on comparable land sales data, using
the same process as previously described in the Direct
Comparison Approach or some other appropriate
appraisal method or technique.

Step 2: Depreciated Cost of the Improvements

- Estimate the cost new of the improvements (i.e. building, garage, outbuilding) using comparable data
- Estimate an appropriate entrepreneurial profit or incentive from the market

(+)

- Estimate the contributory value of any site improvements (i.e. landscaping, other site improvements) that have not been considered
- Estimate the accrued depreciation in the subject (all physical, functional and external elements of depreciation)

Step 3: Value by the Cost Approach = Estimated Value of the Site as Though Vacant + Depreciated Costs of Improvements

5.3.3. INCOME APPROACH

Income-producing properties are typically purchased as investments and the earning potential is an important element affecting the value. Through the Income Approach, the appraiser analyzes a property's capacity to generate income and converts the net income into a present value.

In estimating the market value of an income-producing property, the appraiser analyzes the income and expenses of the comparable rental properties to estimate a stabilized level of net income. The income of investment properties consists primarily of rent with market rent being the "most probable rent that a property should bring in a competitive and open market reflecting all conditions and restrictions of typical lease agreement". Rent, defined through a lease, can be based on a number of units of comparison (i.e. annual rent, rent per unit, rent per floor area of building, i.e. \$X per square foot) and the lease would specify the operating expenses incurred by the landlord and those incurred by the tenant.

Potential Gross Income: is the total potential income the property can generate at full capacity (with no vacancy and before operating expenses). The appraiser analyzes trends, forecasts and comparable rental data to estimate the market rental of the property.

Vacancy Allowance and Collection Losses: covers the loss of income resulting from unoccupied space, tenant turnover and potential credit loss (non-payment of rent by the tenants).



Effective Gross Income: is the expected income from all sources (i.e. rent from tenants, laundry income, parking income, other income) less a market-derived vacancy allowance for each source of income.

Operating Expenses: are periodic expenditures incurred to operate the subject property. These include, but are not limited to: fixed expenses (i.e. property taxes, insurance, utility expenses, maintenance, property management), variable expenses, and sometimes replacement allowance (also known as reserves for replacement of capital items - which apply to some types of property).

Net Operating Income: is the remaining income net of all operating expenses. It excludes expenses related to mortgage debt and book depreciation, which are capital (not operating) expenses.

Converting Income into Value: The value of a property is estimated by converting or "capitalizing" the property's net annual income by an appropriate rate – this can be through an overall capitalization rate, a discount rate or a number of other techniques. This Guide focuses on the Overall Capitalization Rate but depending on the property rights being appraised and/or the purpose of the appraisal it is important to know that other income, discount or yield techniques can be applied.

An Overall Capitalization Rate (OCR) converts a single year's Net Operating Income for the subject property into an indication of value. The Overall Capitalization Rate is derived from analysis of the comparable sales data through a similar analysis of their respective Effective Gross Income, Operating Expenses and Net Operating Income. The Overall Capitalization Rate of a comparable sale is the relationship of its Net Operating Income over its Sale Price.

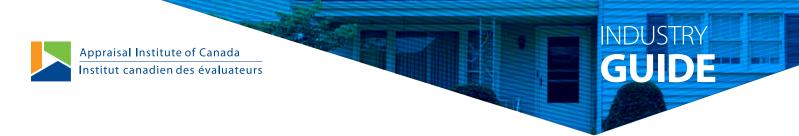
For example, an income-producing property sold for \$1,000,000 with an annual Net Operating Income of \$60,000 which translates into a market derived Overall Capitalization Rate of 6%.

Net Operating Income: \$60,000 = 0.06 (6% = OCR)

Sale Price: \$1,000,000

The appraiser will derive the Overall Capitalization Rate for all comparable sales data analyzed and reconcile into an applicable Overall Capitalization Rate to convert the subject property's income into a single point of value.





5.4 Reconciliation and Certification

Review and Reconcile: The appraiser must review and reconcile:

- the quality and quantity of data available and analyzed within the valuation approaches used; and,
- the applicability and reliability of those approaches in the context of the scope of the assignment.

Final Value: The final value may be a single point value, a range of values or an indication of value.

Certification of Value: Each written real property appraisal report must contain a signed Certification of Value. The member(s) signing the Certification of Value of an appraisal report is (are) responsible for the entire report, including the content, analysis and conclusions.

5.5 The Appraisal Report

Each analysis, opinion and conclusion that results from an appraisal must be communicated in a manner that is meaningful to the intended user and will not be misleading. Members of the Appraisal Institute of Canada are required to complete their appraisal assignments and activities in compliance with the requirements of the Canadian Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (CUSPAP). Whether the appraiser completes an appraisal assignment using a form or narrative report format, the elements outlined in this Guide are critical to ensure completeness of information and compliance to AIC Standards. Following is a sample report outline.





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SAMPLE REPORT OUTLINE COMPLIANT TO CUSPAP

Basis of the Appraisal

- Intended Use of the Report
- Purpose of the Assignment
- Property Rights Appraised
- Definition of Value
- Effective Date of Value
- Scope of Work
- Assumptions and Limiting Conditions

Factual Information

- Identification of the Property, Including Title Information
- Area, City and Neighbourhood Data
- Site Information
- Building Description
- Existing Use
- Property Assessment and Taxes
- Sales History
- Land Use Controls

Analyses and Conclusions

- · Characteristics of the Market
- Highest and Best Use of the Land as if Vacant
- Highest and Best Use of the Property as Improved
- Appraisal Procedures
- Land Value
- Cost Analysis
- Income Analysis
- Direct Comparison Analysis
- Reconciliation
- Final Value Estimate and Exposure Time Analysis
- Certification of Value

Addenda

- Appropriate Plans and Maps
- Relevant Documents
- Photographs

This Guide was authored by Nathalie Roy-Patenaude (AACI, P.App), AIC's Director, Professional Practice (March 2013).

For more information on understanding the appraisal process, please contact the Appraisal Institute of Canada at info@aicanada.ca or find an appraiser in your area by visiting the AIC website at www.AICanada.ca.

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