

**UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE REAL ESTATE REGULATOR AND INDUSTRY BOARDS
AND ASSOCIATIONS IN THE REAL ESTATE MARKET**

The Regulator's Role	The Board and Association Role (Local Boards, Associations and Federations)
<p>Licensing and registration are mandatory to legally trade in real estate, in the province the real estate professional practices in.</p> <p><i>The Regulator :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administers and enforces real estate legislation to protect consumers; • May administer an insurance program for consumer protection (while some provinces may, RECO requires industry to carry insurance but it does not administer or provide those services); • Upholds the public interest, by protecting members of the public who enlist the services of real estate brokerage professionals; • Supports confidence in the real estate profession; • Assists the public in making informed decisions during real estate transactions by giving information on resources available and legal protections available; • Develops and delivers mandatory continuing education courses; • Administers and enforces ethical standards of conduct applicable to real estate professionals; • Investigates complaints about registrants and sanctions as required. Sets the standards for registration and professional education; • Responds to government requests regarding the mandate of consumer protection; • May administer a consumer protection fund. <p>To learn more about provincial requirements and particularities, please click here.</p>	<p>Membership is voluntary, the model varies depending on the province, but the mandate is similar.</p> <p><i>Local Boards, Provincial and Federal Associations and Federations may provide :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on behalf of real estate professionals by advocating, protecting and promoting their interests; • Provide networking opportunities for their members; • Work to ensure the prosperity of the real estate market; • Focus on their members' professional and business interests to help them meet their business objectives; • Encourage consumers to use a real estate salesperson in real estate transactions; • Provide information, statistics, market analysis and tools for real estate professionals; • Represent their members before government authorities, the media, etc.; • Provide commission dispute services for their members;