

PATH: [CIPS Connections](#) < [News](#) < [Home](#)

- CIPS Connections
 - [Current CIPS Connections](#)
 - [Archives](#)
 - [Search](#)
- News Releases
 - [Current News Releases](#)
 - [Archives](#)
 - [Search](#)

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Canadian Designation Now Accepted by International Network Association



Toronto, Ont. (October 28, 2005)--A Canadian designation is now recognized as an entry requirement for the international Certified Network Professional's (CNP) program. The Network Professional Association announced today that network Information Technology (IT) practitioners who hold the Information Systems Professional of Canada (I.S.P.) designation now qualify for the CNP designation.

"Candidates who hold the I.S.P. designation no longer have to go through a rigorous and lengthy process to qualify for the CNP designation," said NPA Board Chairman Jim Belasco. "The I.S.P. designation already provides proof of knowledge and experience competency. It gives us a necessary professional standard upon which we can use to measure the qualifications of a CNP candidate."

To qualify for the CNP designation, candidates must pass a base exam, at least one other industry-recognized certification exam, and meet the necessary education and experience. A typical path for a CNP candidate, for example, requires a base exam and involves criteria points for experience and/or education. Any CNP candidate who holds the I.S.P. designation can now bypass the process through a direct simplified path involving one of several single options to prove networking competence, experience, or education.

"We think this is great news for I.S.P. holders and for the IT profession," said Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS) President Dennis Hulme I.S.P. "The NPA's recognition demonstrates to the IT industry and profession the tremendous value of the I.S.P. designation. We hope other organizations follow in NPA's example."

The CNP designation was created in 1996 by the NPA, which serves as the advocate for the international network computing professional. Holders of the CNP designation possess IT and networking experience and education. They also adhere to a code of ethics and strive for continual growth. The trademarked CNP is internationally recognized. The CNP designation was recently updated this past month.

"The CNP designation's foundations have always been to embody a professional designation that transcends any single vendor certification and focuses on a true professional designation for the networking industry today," added Belasco.

The I.S.P. is the only legislated designation for IT professionals in Canada. It was introduced in 1989 by CIPS, Canada's association of IT professionals. Holders of the designation possess the education and experience to practice in the field of IT. Holders also abide by a Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice and are required to keep their professional knowledge current.

For more information about the I.S.P. designation, visit the CIPS Web site: www.cips.ca or www.cips.ca/standards. For more information about the CNP designation, visit the NPA Web site: www.npa.org and www.cnp.org.

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