



67 Yonge Street, Suite 1500
Toronto, Ontario M5E 1J8

Tel: (416) 203-2746
Fax: (416) 203-6181
www.apgo.net
E-mail: info@apgo.net

June 20, 2003

First Elected Council of Professional Geoscientists Association hears of steady registration growth and a strong financial position.

Toronto, Ontario – The Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario (APGO) is pleased to announce the newly elected Council met for the first time on June 6. The elected Council took office on June 1 to replace the Transition Council, which had previously been appointed by then Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the Hon. Tim Hudak on September 8, 2000, to oversee the start up of the APGO.

The new President Mr. Bill Stiebel, P.Geo. – Vice President and Principal Consultant at Jacques Whitford Environment Limited – has succeeded Dr. Bill Pearson, P.Geo., President of the Transition Council and now the Past President. Mr. Stiebel chaired this first meeting of the elected Council, which was brought up to date on progress by all of the Committees of the Association.

Registration of professional geoscientists in Ontario continues to grow. APGO now has 858 P.Geo. practitioners approved as members, along with 23 Geoscientists in Training and 1 non-practising member. In addition there are 265 applications at various stages of completion representing 1123 total applications received by the APGO. Certificates of Authorization have been issued to 43 firms offering geoscience services in the province, and an additional 33 applications for Certificates of Authorization are pending review.

The Association is financially viable, reporting a much stronger financial position in 2003 than previously, with income slightly ahead of projections and expenditures in line with requirements to meet all expected obligations in the current fiscal year and to provide a small margin to carry forward into future years.

Past President, Dr. Bill Pearson, P.Geo. said: “I am very pleased that the Transitional Council has completed its mandate as originally set out by Minister Hudak. APGO is now a fully established self-regulatory professional association governing the practice of professional geoscience in Ontario.”

Pearson went on to note that “Council met many challenges in achieving this objective but made the decisions necessary to ensure the future viability and success of APGO. With the continued strong growth in membership, APGO is now on a much stronger financial footing.”

Recent developments at APGO included finalizing of the last By-Laws and the adoption of complaints procedures that the Association will follow in the event of a complaint against the practice of a member. A new By-Law recently approved by Council allows for the Incidental Practice mechanisms required under the Inter Association Mobility Agreement with Quebec.

At the Council meeting, mandate was given to a new Enforcement and Compliance Committee (ECC) of APGO. The ECC will work with the Executive Director/Registrar of the Association Mr. Oliver Bonham, P.Geo., to inform the public that the *Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000* is now in full force and it is a requirement for all practitioners of professional geoscience in Ontario be registered as P.Geo.s and for firms offering and providing geoscience services to hold Certificates of Authorization. The APGO will contact users of geoscience services in the province and advise them of the need to use only P. Geo.s registered with APGO and holders of Certificates of Authorization issued by APGO when commissioning geoscience related work.

In commenting on the priorities and responsibilities that the APGO carries to ensure the protection of the public, the President, Mr. Bill Stiebel, P.Ge. said: “Geoscience in now a regulated profession in Ontario - just like medicine, engineering, accounting and law. It is important that all practitioners are aware of this and the requirement that they become registered. Also that all users are aware of this. It is one of my mandate priorities as President to ensure that the public, users of professional geoscience services and geoscience practitioners all understand the requirements for geoscience services and the benefits of using a registered P. Geo.”

APGO’s mission is to serve the public by regulating, enhancing and providing leadership in the practice of professional geoscience in Ontario. Information about APGO and how to apply for membership is available on the Association website at www.apgo.net

30

Contact:

Oliver Bonham, M.Sc. P.Ge.
(416) 203-2746 Ext. 22
obonham@apgo.net