



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

News Release
Communiqué

October 9, 2003

Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario Grows To Over 1000 Members

Toronto: APGO President Bill Stiebel, P. Geo., announced today that the registration of professional geoscientists in Ontario has surpassed a significant milestone, with the registration of the 1000th member. APGO membership has now reached 1037 members with 1001 P. Geos., (comprised of 997 P.Geos. - Practising, 3 P.Geos. - Limited, 1 P.Geo. - Temporary), 1 Non-practising member and 37 Geoscientists -in-Training. Since inception of geoscientist registration in December 2001 under the Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000, 1156 membership applications have been received and of those reviewed by the Registration Committee, 19 applications have been denied.

The growth of APGO to over 1000 members reflects the Ontario geoscience community's commitment to professional ethics, knowledge and qualifications to ensure protection of the public and natural environment in conducting geoscience work. The strong membership base also ensures the first elected APGO Council has sufficient financial resources to administer and continue to build APGO into a world class professional self-regulatory organization.

The world class status being achieved by APGO is reflected in member distribution, with 44 members residing in Canada outside Ontario, 17 living in the United States, and other members living in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, New Caledonia, South Africa and the United Kingdom. All applicants to APGO are required to write or have written a Professional Practice and Ethics Examination. In October, APGO's National PPE exam will be taken at 27 locations by 310 candidates, including 16 locations in Ontario, 3 elsewhere in Canada, 2 in the United States, and other locations located in Argentina, Australia, France, Mongolia, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea.

In addition to individual members, APGO has issued Certificates of Authorization to 66 firms offering professional geoscience services to the public.

The President also noted that although the membership has grown, a communications and enforcement program is being developed to reach the estimated over 1500 geoscientists in Ontario who have not registered with APGO and the users of geoscience services. It is important that users of geoscience services recognize the requirement to use qualified individuals registered with APGO when conducting geoscience work, to ensure that appropriate geoscientific expertise and knowledge is applied to the undertaking and that public safety and the environment are protected.

Examples of typical work undertaken by professional geoscientists includes geophysical surveys for earthquake zones, for ore bodies and hydrocarbons, for buried structures and for groundwater resources; geochemical and geological surveying and mapping; exploration, development and production control for and of aggregate, mineral or energy resources; exploration, development, protection and management of groundwater resources; constraint mapping and siting for waste containment facilities; investigation and remediation of contaminated or Brownfield sites; and assessments for land use planning and of landform hazards.

The Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000 requires all firms and individuals practicing professional geoscience in Ontario, who are not specifically exempt as specified in the Act, to apply for registration with APGO. Registered professional geoscientists are regulated by Code of Ethics and Complaints and Discipline Regulations under the Act. An APGO member who contravenes the Regulations is subject to discipline including reprimand, training/education, fines and retraction of registration and loss of right to practice.

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.Geo.
(416) 203-2746 Ext. 22
obonham@apgo.net