



News Release

For Immediate Release

Thursday, September 9, 2004

APGO Appoints Youth Intern as Communications Officer-Northern Ontario and Opens Timmins Office

Toronto, ON---- The Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario (APGO) President, John Buckle, P.Geo., announced today that the Association has appointed Ms Crystal Spekking as Communications Officer – Northern Ontario. This appointment has been made possible as a result of funding provided by the Industry Canada/FedNor initiative and through assistance with office and support services provided by the City of Timmins. Ms Spekking is a recent graduate with a diploma in Public Relations from Cambrian College in Sudbury, Ontario.

The main duties of the Communications Officer - Northern Ontario, which is a one-year internship - will be to provide information about the APGO, professional geoscience and the *Professional Geoscientist Act, 2000* to the public, practitioners in geoscience and both providers and users of geoscience services in northern Ontario. Having an office in Timmins will also allow the Association to better serve its many members residing in and practising geoscience throughout northern Ontario.

“We are delighted with this development as it allows the Association to engage a recent graduate from the Timmins area who will gain valuable work experience in a mentored professional work environment and, at the same time, provide the opportunity for APGO to increase the profile of professional geoscience in the north – an area in which the contribution of geoscientists as mine-finders has historically been, and continues to be, one of the main seeds of new economic growth. This internship will allow APGO to inform northern Ontarians that our profession is now regulated and that all practitioners are required to be licensed and accountable for the appropriate protection of the public”, said Mr. Buckle.

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Mr. Buckle extended thanks on behalf of the Association and its members, to the Industry Canada/FedNor program, and to the City of Timmins for its considerable support and assistance. He also thanked Mr. Scott McLean, P.Geo., of Falconbridge Limited and Mr. Ken Petersen, C.M.C. of Petersen Consulting, in Timmins, for their efforts in facilitating this initiative. Mr. McLean is currently Vice President of APGO; Mr. Petersen serves as a public member on APGO Council.

“The city of Timmins is pleased to participate in this initiative. The employment of our youth in the community is a priority and it is appropriate for the office to be located here in an area rich in mineral resources. I am confident that through the leadership of the APGO the geoscience community in the north will be strengthened and will lead to the development of additional resources”, said Timmins Mayor Vic Power.

Throughout the year, Ms Spekking will provide information about registration and will make presentations about the impact of the *Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000* on users of geoscience services throughout the north. She will also be serving the members through facilitating communications.

The APGO Timmins Office is located at 272 Third Avenue, P.O. Box 2104, Timmins, ON, (705) 360-6171

The Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000 received Royal Assent on June 23, 2000 and established the APGO. APGO governs the practice of professional geoscience in Ontario and reports to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. The legislation protects the public and investors by establishing a regulated association of geoscientists with the power to admit only qualified persons, to encourage continuing professional competence, to discipline members for professional misconduct and to prevent unqualified individuals from practising.

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