



Update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GEOSCIENTISTS OF ONTARIO

Geoscientists get ready for licensing

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year 2000 was a tremendous success for Ontario geoscientists. The provincial government passed the Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000 in June and appointed the first Council in September. The APGO conducted a public consultation process on the proposed registration and code of ethics regulations in November-December.

There is still much work to do, however, before our Act is fully proclaimed and APGO becomes a fully functioning self-regulatory association. We had hoped that the registration and code of ethics regulations would be completed by the end of 2000, however, we are waiting for final ministerial approval. We expect that the approval process for the regulations will be complete in March - April, 2001

As a result of this delay, Ontario geoscientists are concerned about being eligible to be Qualified Persons (QP), since the National Instrument 43-101 became law February 1. It requires a QP to be responsible for technical work and the basis of the QP is a licence as a professional geoscientist.

To resolve this issue, APGO recently met with officials of the TSE and OSC. They agreed to accept AGO membership as evidence of being a practising geoscientist in Ontario during the transition period until February 1, 2002. If you are working in other provinces/territories, you must be licensed in that jurisdiction; AGO membership will not be accepted.

As a result of the OSC's and TSE's decision, the AGO Board has decided to continue AGO for one more year. AGO will send out membership renewals for 2001 to all members.

Inside you'll find a revised schedule for the road to licensure (page 4), which at the moment

is tentative. It is important that all geoscientists have an opportunity to comment on proposed regulations and by-laws; this process takes time - but we are making progress! By June, 2001 we should be able to accept applications for registering as a professional geoscientist in Ontario.

On March 1 APGO announced a \$100,000 donation by Placer Dome-Canada to the startup fund of APGO. The donation demonstrates outstanding support for building a strong professional geoscience association in Ontario to maintain a standard of excellence.

I was delighted to meet with Jim Gowans, president and CEO of Placer Dome-Canada. He was involved in the formation of NAPEGG in the Northwest Territories in the late 1970s and knows first hand not only the importance of forming such an association, but the many problems inherent, especially financial, during the startup phase.

I am also very pleased to welcome Talisman Energy and North American Palladium as sponsors of APGO; both of these companies contributed \$10,000 each to the startup fund which now stands at \$262,000. About half of the fund was expended for work completed in 2000.

I must caution everyone that although \$100,000 sounds like a lot of money, when you
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AGO is pleased to welcome Placer Dome-Canada as founding patron, and Talisman Energy and North American Palladium as founding sponsors of APGO

CIM committee will prepare estimation guidelines

In response to the TSE Committee on Best Practices and Reporting Guidelines for Mineral Exploration recommendations, the CIM has announced a new committee to prepare guidelines for estimation of resources and reserves.

Committee chair Paul Severin, Falconbridge's vice-president of exploration, is currently selecting members to provide experience and geographical representation. APGO will have representation on the committee.

The CIM Standards on Mineral Resources and Reserves, published August 20, 2000 and adopted by National Instrument NI 43-101,

provides guidelines for the classification of Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve estimates. The category of an estimate indicates the level of confidence in the geological information available on the mineral deposit.

Technical Reports dealing with estimates of Mineral Resources and Mineral Reserves must be prepared by or under the direction of, and dated and signed by, a Qualified Person. Only the terms and the definitions contained in the CIM standards are to be used and the report must follow the requirements of Form 43-101F1. The CIM standards are available from the CIM Web site at www.cim.org.

Securities law now requires qualified persons (QPs)

QPs now must be responsible for all scientific and technical mining work after the Ontario Minister of Finance signed the National Instrument 43-101 into law on February 1, 2001.

A QP is defined as a professional geoscientist or professional engineer with five years of experience relevant to the particular mining project. The QP is a regulatory concept only and is not an additional professional designation.

The purpose of the National Instrument law is to enhance the accuracy and integrity of public disclosure in the mining sector.

The law establishes standards for all oral statements and written disclosures made by an issuer concerning mineral projects that are likely to be made available to the public.

Disclosure concerning mineral projects is to be based on information prepared by or under the supervision of a qualified person. Disclosure of mineral resources and mineral reserves is to be made in accordance with

standard definitions approved by the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM) and incorporated by reference into the National Instrument.

There is a one-year window for Ontario geoscientists to become licenced under the new law.

The Instruments are consistent with the recommendations of the Final Report of the TSE-OSC Mining Standards Task Force. The Canadian Security Administration (CSA) says that the Instruments will enhance investor protection and maintain the fairness and efficiency of capital markets.

To find out more, check the Web site: www.osc.gov.on.ca/en/Regulation/Rulemaking/Rules/rules.html. Also, APGO President Bill Pearson will make a presentation on the new rules at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) conference on March 14. The workshop is called NI 43-101: World leader for mining standards.

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Placer Dome pledges support

Placer Dome has made a major contribution of \$100,000 to the APGO to help get the organization up and running. "It is important that the senior members of the mining and exploration industry support this endeavor, rather than asking our government for the main contribution," wrote Jim Gowans, president and CEO of Placer Dome-Canada to the APGO. "This effort is for our own behalf, to provide the industry with a standard of excellence."

Gowans notes that Placer Dome supports the APGO initiative because it provides Ontario with a very important professional organization to maintain Canada's status, and Ontario's status as a centre of excellence in the world mining and exploration community.

"This is huge for us," says Bill Pearson, president of APGO. "It brings us much further along the path to raising our full financial requirements although additional funds still must be raised."

"THIS IS FOR OUR OWN BEHALF, TO PROVIDE THE INDUSTRY WITH A STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE"

— JIM GOWANS
PLACER DOME-
CANADA

Focus on the environment

The focus on the environmental aspect of geoscience has been building for the past 15 years.

APGO's Environmental Task Force committee is developing best practice guidelines for geoscientists working in the brown field, groundwater and waste disposal water areas. The association has discussed best practice guidelines with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and the Environment Committee of the Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO).

Nearly half of the geoscience practitioners who are members of AGO are in the environmental field, says APGO president Bill Pearson. "It's clearly a growth area." The water crisis in Walkerton demonstrates the need to ensure properly qualified individuals are employed.

John Gartner, P.Eng., founding principal of Gartner Lee Limited, is joining APGO as advisor, environmental affairs. Gartner is currently coordinating a major fundraising campaign among environmental companies and is working to raise the APGO's profile with these companies. He will also advise APGO on environmental issues.

Even the *Globe and Mail* commented recently on the new growth of environment in geoscience, when it reported on Simon Fraser University's new chair in the department of earth sciences, Doug Stead. His appointment is part of SFU's attempt to build an earth sciences department that graduates environmental geologists with expertise in areas such as groundwater management, predicting and planning for natural disasters and terrain mapping for logging operations.

Stead is setting up a research centre in forest geoscience, and will oversee new programs in terrain analysis for graduate and undergraduate students.

Forest Renewal British Columbia, a Crown corporation set up in 1994 to promote a stable forestry industry in the province, sponsored the new chair with a \$3.5-million endowment.

In Ontario, a number of universities offer a wide range of programs in environmental geoscience. Several geology departments have recently changed to Earth Sciences to include this rapidly expanding field.

JOHN GARTNER, P.ENG., IS JOINING APGO AS ADVISOR, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NEARLY HALF OF THE GEOSCIENCE PRACTITIONERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF AGO ARE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD

Please renew your membership

continued from front

are running a self-regulatory organization, even a lean and mean one like APGO, additional funds will be required until the association becomes self-financing. We are continuing to work on fund raising from the private sector and have launched a major campaign to target companies in the environmental area.

I urge you all to renew your membership as soon as possible. The AGO membership fees will cover most of the communication costs. The provincial government, while it has contributed significant in-kind resources, has not yet decided if it will contribute directly to funding.

Get your P. Geo. soon

**“ALL OUR
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AND
MEMBERSHIP.”
PAUL SEVERIN,
FALCONBRIDGE**

The legislation has passed. The regulations have been drafted and the public consulted. The revised regulations are awaiting Ministerial approval. By-laws are being prepared and will be released for public comment as soon as possible. Once the by-laws are passed by Council, the next step will be for Ontario geoscientists to apply to register with the new Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario (APGO). The success of the association is dependent upon people joining early, says president Bill Pearson.

Falconbridge Limited is a founding patron of the APGO and has committed to registering all its geoscientists.

“All our geoscientists will be required to register and the company will cover the cost of registration and membership,” says Paul Severin,

the company’s vice-president of exploration.

Falconbridge strongly endorses the Qualified Person (QP) concept, says Severin. “The QP qualification and best practice guidelines are to be adopted throughout the organization.”

The new rules formalize the process that the company has always followed: geoscientists have been required to plan, carry out and report exploration programs in a competent and professional manner.

“Our board of directors, senior officers and shareholders can be confident that there are systems in place to ensure that Falconbridge is in full compliance with the new rules, regulations and guidelines issued by the Ontario Securities Commission and the Toronto Stock Exchange,” says Severin.

AGO member receives Order of Canada

Governor General of Canada Adrienne Clarkson recently appointed Stefan Michael Blasco, C.M., of Dartmouth, N.S., as a Member of the Order of Canada.

Blasco played a pivotal role in promoting the transfer of technology from government and university researchers to the exploration industry. A renowned marine geophysicist with the federal Department of Natural Resources, he has designed innovative equipment for the harvesting of ocean resources. Relating his experience as a member of the production team for the IMAX film *Titanica*, he uses his excellent communication skills to educate Canadians and share with them his passion for science.

Web site under design

Our current provider has decided to leave the Web site business and we will be moving to a new supplier this month. We are working on a major upgrade of the site. Watch for it! Updates will continue to be posted to the current site in the meantime.

Road to licensure*

June 23, 2000 — Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000 passes third reading and receives Royal Assent.

September 8, 2000 — First council of APGO appointed.

November - December 2000 — Public consultation on proposed registration and code of ethics regulations.

January 15, 2001 — APGO submits recommendations for changes to proposed regulations based on consultation to Ministry.

March - April 2001 — Ministerial approval of registration and code of ethics regulations.

April-May 2001 — Public consultation on proposed registration by-laws.

May-June 2001 — Final approval of by-laws by Council and issue of membership application forms.

September - October 2001 — Public consultation on proposed discipline and enforcement regulations.

December 2001 - January 2002 — Final approval of discipline and enforcement regulations.

February 1, 2002 — Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000 proclaimed.

* may be subject to change

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO AGO MEMBER
STEFAN MICHAEL
BLASCO, C.M.**

Cross-Canada registration

by Gordon D. Williams, P.Geol., P.Geo., and Bill Pearson, P.Geol.

In Canada, provinces and territories, not the federal government, license professionals to practise.

Geoscientists must or will soon be licensed in 10 of the 13 provinces and territories: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

In each jurisdiction, the responsibility to license individual geoscientists is delegated by law to autonomous self-regulating professional associations. At the end of 2000, more than 6,000 geoscientists were licensed in the 10 jurisdictions. As geoscientists in Ontario and Quebec register with their newly mandated professional associations, another 4,000 geoscientists will join the roster.

Nova Scotia also has legislation pending that will require geoscientists to be licensed. Yukon and Prince Edward Island are considering licensure although only a few practising geoscientists live there.

The current status of licensure in Canada is summarized below (membership numbers are current as of the end of 2000):

Alberta: Regulated in Alberta since the mid-1950s, about 4,000 geoscience professionals are licensed in Alberta by the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA).

British Columbia: Since 1990. The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (APEGBC) has about 1,060 licensed members.

Manitoba: About 225 geoscientists are licensed in Manitoba by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba (APEGM). Licensure became a legal requirement in June, 1998.

Saskatchewan: Saskatchewan began registering Professional Geoscientists under its Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act in 1997. The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan (APEGS) licenses 540 geoscientists.

New Brunswick: Implemented an Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act requiring geoscientists to be licensed on December 1, 1999. A two-year transitional period until the end of 2001 allows existing practitioners in the province to become registered by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of New

Brunswick (APEGNB). About 30 geoscientists are currently licensed.

Newfoundland: Since 1988. About 190 geoscientists are licensed in Newfoundland by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland (APEGN).

Northwest Territories: Since 1981, geoscientists have been licensed as professional geologists or professional geophysicists by the Northwest Territories Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists (NAPEGG). About 50 geoscientists are licensed in the NWT, including the new territory of Nunavut.

Ontario: The Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario (APGO) was established last year after legislation passed in June 2000. The new association expects to begin registering geoscientists who are currently practising in the province by mid-2001.

Quebec: In December 2000, the Quebec government tabled a bill to create the new Ordre Professionnel des Géologues du Québec (OPGQ), providing geoscientists in the province with full right-to-practice. As a transitional measure, for one year, the Act will confer right-to-practice within Quebec on geologists from outside the province who are registered with a comparable association, therefore providing full mobility. Because the Code des Professions du Québec already exists, the OPGQ will be operational from the moment the law is sanctioned. The bill is expected to pass in the spring session of the National Assembly.

Nova Scotia: Geoscientists have formed the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia to work with the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia to ensure that combined engineering and geoscience legislation is enacted as soon as possible. A new engineering and geoscience act has been drafted and will probably be introduced in the provincial legislature this year.

Prince Edward Island: Few geoscientists reside or practice in the province. For years, they showed little interest in obtaining licensure. With legislation in place or pending in all the neighbouring provinces, it is likely that geoscientists will be incorporated into a new engineering and geoscience act when the existing act is revised.

AT THE END OF 2000, MORE THAN 6,000 GEOSCIENTISTS WERE LICENSED IN 10 JURISDICTIONS IN CANADA.

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New Minister takes on Northern Development and Mines

**FORMER
MINISTER OF
NORTHERN
DEVELOPMENT
AND MINES TIM
HUDAK HAS
MOVED ON TO
TOURISM,
CULTURE AND
RECREATION**

The new Ontario Minister of Northern Development and Mines is the Hon. Dan Newman. Premier Mike Harris appointed him during the provincial government's recent cabinet shuffle. Before taking on this portfolio, Newman was Minister of the Environment. He represents Scarborough Southwest and Scarborough Centre.

The APGO looks forward to working with Newman to start registering the professional

geoscientists in Ontario soon.

Former Minister of Northern Development and Mines Tim Hudak has moved on to Tourism, Culture and Recreation. "We thank the Honourable Tim Hudak for his strong support and leadership in moving the Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000 through the legislature," says Bill Pearson, APGO's president. "We wish him well in his new Ministry."

In appreciation

On behalf of its members, the APGO would like to express its appreciation to the employers of all those who volunteer for the association. These employers generously allow the volunteers to spend time working for the benefit of the geoscience community. Thank you!

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The AGO is pleased to acknowledge the following contributors to the APGO Start-up Fund

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Sponsors (\$10,000+)

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Licensure in the Yukon

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Yukon: Those practitioners who want to be registered can become registered in British Columbia, NWT or Alberta. Interest in licensing geoscientists in Yukon has recently revived and this will likely result in a combined engineering and geoscience act in the near future.

Gordon D. Williams, P.Geol., P.Geo., is second vice president, Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta and a past-chair, Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists.

Bill Pearson, P.Geo., is president of the APGO.

Mark your calendars!

AGO - APGO Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 10, 2001

- expanded format
- invited speakers
- special guest speaker
- update on licensure

Time and venue to be announced.

Association of Geoscientists of Ontario
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