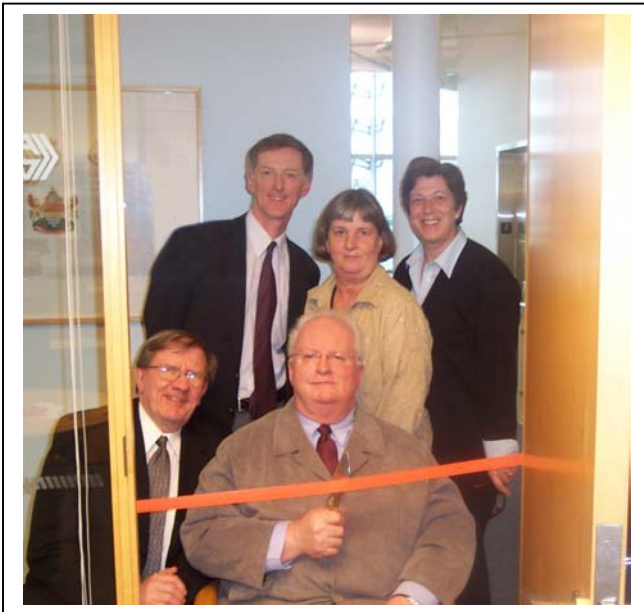


## CCPG/CCGP opens its first staffed national office



*At the official “flagging tape cutting” ceremony to open the new CCPG Office - (Left to Right) - Standing: Oliver Bonham, P.Geo, CEO CCPG; Brenda Wright, P.Geol, Vice-President CCPG; Anne Garrett, P.Eng., Executive Director/Registrar APEGBC. Seated: Jim Wright, P.Geo. Treasurer CCPG; Barry Collins Q.C, P.Geo, President CCPG.*

CCPG, the Canadian Council Professional Geoscientists, opened its first staffed office on March 15, 2006 in Vancouver. CCPG is the national federation of the 10 constituent associations that govern the practice of geoscience in Canada (similar to CCPE’s role for engineering).

CCPG’s new office, located in Burnaby, BC (a suburb of Vancouver) is hosted by APEGBC, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia. Heading the new office is Oliver (Ollie) Bonham, P.Geo., hired as CCPG’s Chief Executive Officer and first full-time staff member. Mr. Bonham has over 28 years of experience in the mining and mineral exploration sector and, more recently, in the regulatory sector as Executive Director/Registrar of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario.

Prior to Mr. Bonham’s appointment, CCPG operated as a volunteer organization with significant administrative support from APEGGA (the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta) — in particular, from its Deputy Registrar Al Schuld P.Eng. and his assistant Carolyn Deets — as well as the office of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers.

In November 2002 the CCPG Directors created a strategic plan for 2003-2009 that included hiring a CEO and establishing an office. In January 2005 Marc Boivin géo (of Quebec), then President of CCPG, sent a letter to the 10 constituent associations requesting increased funding to cover the cost of the new position and office.

Mr. Boivin explained that the organization’s volunteer resources were no longer adequate to fulfill its mandate to facilitate national and international mobility, and promote recognition of Canadian geoscientists. The CCPG had, as he put it, “outgrown the President’s briefcase” and a full-time staff member was required to provide the continuity necessary to maintain visible contact with external organizations, government agencies, academic institutions and the media.

All 10 constituent associations approved the funding increase and a task force was subsequently struck to hire a CEO; after an extensive search Mr. Bonham was hired. APEGBC agreed to host the CCPG office and signed an agreement with CCPG outlining the general terms to support the new position on both a funding and operational basis.

The establishment of a new office for CCPG will benefit geoscientists across Canada. Vancouver, with more than 700 exploration companies, is a world centre in the practice of geoscience — not only with respect to mineral exploration and mine development, but also for the raising of venture capital for the resource sector. A western base is also advantageous in view of the many head offices of oil and gas companies located in Alberta.

Speaking at a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of CCPG at the new office in late March — which included a modest “flagging tape” cutting ceremony to officially open the new office — the current President of CCPG, Mr. Barry Collins, Q.C. (Can), P.Geo., of Saskatchewan, stated that “It is a momentous event for CCPG to finally have an office of its own and to have a full-time professional to lead the organization. But I must say that without the work of all our practitioner volunteers over the years since CCPG’s inception almost 10 years ago, and the support from both APEGGA and CCPE, we would not have been able to get to this point.

“I would also like to say thanks to APEGBC for making CCPG so welcome here in BC,” continued Mr. Collins. “I have great feelings about the future of CCPG and the future of the geoscience profession, which is so very important to Canadian society.”

More than 7,600 geoscientists are now licensed as professionals in Canada and this number is expected to reach 10,000 within two to three years. The new address and contact details for the new CCPG office are as follows:

Oliver Bonham P.Geo.  
Chief Executive Officer/Chef de la direction  
Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists/Conseil Canadien de Géoscientifiques Professionnels  
200-4010 Regent Street  
Burnaby, BC, Canada V6C 6N2  
T: 604-412-4888  
F: 604-433-2494  
obonham@ccpg.ca  
[www.ccpq.ca](http://www.ccpq.ca)