

APGO's CPD Program: A Primer

Preamble

APGO's CPD program was established to enable the Association to fulfill an important part of its legislated mandate as a regulatory body. In APGO's opinion, a CPD program indicates to the Ontario public that the Association takes its responsibility as the regulator of the practice of geoscience in this province very seriously.

Therefore, the primary objective of APGO's CPD program is to help the Association gain the public's confidence and trust. It aims to achieve this end by demonstrating that APGO-licensed professional geoscientists, including the holder(s) of an APGO-issued Certificate of Authorization, are committed to maintaining and exhibiting the requisite competence to ensure that the public welfare and the natural environment are safeguarded where the practice of professional geoscience is concerned.

An undeserved negative impression has developed concerning APGO's CPD program. It appears much of it is due, in large part, to a misunderstanding caused by insufficient focused dialogue between the Association and its membership.

In view of the foregoing, the following list of *APGO's CPD Facts* and the *Q&A* are intended enhance understanding about the program, clarify its underlying purpose and dispel the myths surrounding it:

APGO's CPD Facts

- APGO's CPD program was introduced at the end of 2004;
- APGO's CPD program began on **January 1, 2005** as a voluntary program;
- APGO's year-long voluntary CPD program ended on **December 31, 2005**, becoming mandatory on **January 1, 2006** for all full and limited professional geoscientist (P. Geo.) members;
- APGO's deadline for submitting *CPD Declaration Forms*, indicating participation in the 2005 voluntary program, was extended from June 30, 2006 to **August 30, 2006** at the request of a number of APGO licensees who were still in the process of completing their form;

- APGO's licensees who submit their CPD *Declaration Form* to meet the **August 30, 2006** deadline can carry over excess CPD Hours from 2005 into 2006.

APGO's CPD Q&A

Q: What is CPD?

A: "CPD" is an acronym. It stands for *Continuing Professional Development*. CPD is a means by which members of most progressive professional organizations maintain, improve and enhance their knowledge and skills as well as develop the requisite qualities for their professional and personal lives.

Q: How would you define the term "Continuing Professional Development"?

A: Whereas there's no universally accepted definition of the term, the following is a succinct definition offered by *The Royal Town Planning Institute* of the United Kingdom: "***The systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skill and the development of personal qualities necessary for the execution of professional and technical duties throughout the practitioner's working life.***"

Q: Why is CPD important to APGO and its licensed members?

A: APGO has been entrusted, by the provincial Legislature, with the responsibility of regulating the practice of geoscience and governing its licensees in the interest of the Ontario public. It is in the public's interest that APGO licensed members should not only satisfy the initial entry licensing requirements, but that they should be seen to be maintaining and developing their professional knowledge and skills. Doing so legitimizes them as professionals and attests to their professional competence in the eyes of the public.

Q: Where in APGO's governing legislation is support given for introducing a CPD Program to be complied with by its members?

A: Sub-section 5 (1) (d) (e) of Ontario Regulation 60/01 (i.e., APGO's *Code of Ethics*), developed under the Ontario *Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000*, states that a licensed APGO member has a duty to act with "*knowledge of developments in the area of professional geoscience relevant to the services being provided; and with competence in the performance of the services being provided.*" All APGO members are bound by the Association's *Code of Ethics*.

Q: Why does APGO want to play "Big Brother" and "police" its members?

A: In accordance with its governing legislation, APGO has the authority to *govern* its members and holder(s) of an APGO-issued Certificate of Authorization. A CPD program is a preventive measure put in place by APGO and other progressive self-governing organizations, consistent with established legislated obligations. As a result, an audit is provided for to determine APGO members' compliance with the CPD requirements.

Q: What counts as CPD?

A: APGO considers the following to be acceptable CPD activities: *Professional Practice, Formal Training, Other Educational Activity, Presentations, and Contributions to Knowledge*. (You are encouraged to refer to the APGO CPD Guidebook for further details.)

Q: What's a "CPD Hour"?

A: It's the unit of measure for CPD effort in terms of time. One CPD Hour = One Contact Hour.

Q: What's the due date for submitting 2006 CPD Declaration Forms?

The due date for the receipt of 2006 CPD Declaration Forms by the Association is **June 30, 2007**.