



ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS OF ONTARIO

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Media Release

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For more information, please contact:

Norm Williams, Ph.D., P. Eng.,
Executive Director & Registrar
Tel: (416) 203-2746 or info@apgo.net

Amendment to regulation allows for exemption from PLI requirements for C of A holders

Toronto - (January 5, 2007) – The Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario (APGO) is pleased to announce three recent amendments to the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario's (APGO) Registration Regulation, made under the *Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000*.

The first amendment provides for an exemption from professional liability insurance (PLI) requirements for APGO's Certificate of Authorization (C of A) holders. This provision is similar to an exemption for engineering C of A holders, provided for under the Ontario *Professional Engineers Act*. APGO's president, Maureen C. Jensen, P. Geo., welcomed this change and said, "This long-awaited amendment allows practitioners to manage their practice and the associated risk, while protecting the public, and also levels the playing field for APGO and PEO C of A holders." She added, "Many sole practitioners have found that PLI premiums are a significant financial burden, while others have had great difficulty obtaining adequate coverage. Therefore, we are very pleased that the Minister approved this much needed amendment to the APGO registration regulation."

The other two amendments are of a "housekeeping" nature. One will now allow an increase in the number of times an applicant can sit the Professional Practice and Ethics (PPE) Examination and the other will enable APGO or the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists (CCPG) to determine the acceptability of an international referee for an APGO applicant. President Jensen said, "These amendments are in response to issues raised by APGO applicants and each of these changes helps APGO in its goal to be a responsive and an inclusive regulator."

APGO's Registrar, Dr. Norm Williams, P.Eng., elaborated, "There is much interest among international geoscience practitioners to become licensed APGO members and there are an increasing number of experienced internationally trained geoscientists who have immigrated to this province over the past few years and are now seeking APGO licensure. These changes allow APGO to now recognize an international referee who is a member of an overseas geoscience organization that is similar to the APGO."

APGO is responsible for safeguarding and protecting the Ontario public and the natural environment where the practice of professional geoscience is concerned. APGO is empowered to admit only suitably qualified individuals as licensed members to practise professional geoscience. In addition, APGO issues certificates of authorization that legally entitle entities to offer or provide professional geoscience services directly to the public. APGO administers the Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000, on behalf of the Ontario Minister of Northern Development and Mines.