



August 18, 2009

**For Immediate Release**

**Ontario Geoscientist, Dr. Bill Pearson, P.Ge., Recipient of 2009 Canadian Professional Geoscientist Award.**

Vancouver —The Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists (“CCPG”) is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2009 Canadian Professional Geoscientist Award - Dr. William N. (Bill) Pearson, P.Ge., of Thornhill, Ontario.

The Canadian Professional Geoscientist Award is given to recognize the achievements of an individual in his or her capacity as a registered professional geoscientist, who has made an outstanding contribution to the development and practice of professional geoscience and who has advanced public recognition of the profession in Canada.

To be eligible for the award a nominee must meet a number of specified criteria, which include: a solid career as a professional geoscientist, an outstanding record of voluntary service to the community, and service to one of the provincial or territorial professional associations which regulate geoscience in Canada or to CCPG.

The Award, which consists of a labradorite and marble sculpture made by a Canadian artist, is given to a person in mid-to-late career.

Dr. Bill Pearson, P.Ge., has not only had a long and outstanding career as a professional geoscientist, but he has also served as a tireless and dedicated pioneer and leader of his profession at both the provincial and national level.

Bill was the founding president of the Association of Professional Geoscientist of Ontario (“APGO”) from 2000 to 2003 and before that served as President of the Association of Geoscientists of Ontario (“AGO”) from 1996 to 2000 - the precursor association prior to the proclamation of Ontario’s *Professional Geoscientists Act, 2000*. In fact, his involvement in the effort to regulate geoscience practice in Ontario dates back to March 1989 when he convened the first meeting of CPRGO - the Committee for the Professional Registration of Geoscientists of Ontario - a committee he then chaired for 7 years, from its inception until its evolution into AGO in 1996. Bill also served as APGO’s interim Executive Director from 2000 to 2002.

In addition to his work for the geoscience profession in Ontario, Bill was instrumental in the formation of the CCPG itself, where he served as one of CCPG’s founding directors. At CCPG, he chaired the CCPG Securities Committee and also sat on CCPG’s Staff Liaison Group in his capacity as interim Executive Director of APGO. He contributed to the establishment of the CCPG Inter-Association Mobility Agreement for geoscience (which served the profession until the recent changes to Canada’s Agreement on Internal Trade) and, in a separate development to facilitate greater mobility of professionals, he was instrumental in successful negotiations for the bilateral mobility agreement between APGO and the Ordre du Géologues de Québec (“OGQ”) covering Incidental Practice and Temporary Licensure, between Quebec and Ontario.

Bill continues to support the APGO, through contributing financially to APGO’s new website and by creating and initially funding the APGO Education Fund. In addition, he is a member of the Dean’s Advisory Committee for the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Western Ontario. He is also an active masters amateur track and field athlete at the international level



and is the Throws Director of Ontario Masters Athletics as well as President of the Throwers Club.

After obtaining a B.Sc. Honours degree in geology from the University of British Columbia in 1974, Dr Pearson went on to complete an M.Sc. in Economic Geology in 1977 and a Ph.D. from Queen's University in 1979. He then went on to enjoy a broad and varied professional career as a geoscientist spanning some 35 years of practice, largely in the minerals exploration and mining sector, culminating in his roles as VP Exploration for Desert Sun Mining Ltd, until its acquisition by Yamana Gold in 2006 and as Executive VP Exploration of Central Sun Mining until its acquisition by B2 Gold in 2009. Bill continues his professional geoscience career as President & CEO of Tucano Exploration Inc., a private exploration company which recently announced a merger with Castillian Resources, a TSX Venture listed junior mining company. He is also active as a director of several junior mining exploration companies.

In announcing the award the President of CCPG Gary Vivian, P.Ge. stated "CCPG is delighted that the judges chose Bill as this year's award recipient. There are few geoscientists in Canada who have put so much individual effort into raising the importance of regulating geoscience practice to protect the public interest".

He went on to say "When I read the account that appeared in the first annual report of the APGO in 2003, which recounts in detail the effort that was involved and obstacles that were overcome in achieving regulation of geoscience in Ontario – a goal that took over 14 years of dedication to achieve, and when one realizes that most of this was lead and championed by Bill, himself, one cannot fail to be impressed".

The citation on the 2009 award, which will be presented to Dr. Pearson at a later date, will read as follows: "*Presented to William N. (Bill) Pearson, P.Ge., in recognition of his outstanding public leadership of geoscience in Ontario and Canada, and for raising recognition of the contribution of his profession to society.*"

Nominations for this award are considered annually, although the award will not necessarily be presented each year. Further details on the award criteria and nominations process can be obtained from the CCPG website at [www.ccpq.ca](http://www.ccpq.ca).

The mission of CCPG is to develop consistent high standards for licensure and practice of geoscience, to facilitate national and international professional mobility, and to promote recognition of Canadian geoscientists.

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