

GeoGazette

Summer 2018

Volume VIII Issue II

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Volunteering with
APGNS!
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APGNS Council – August 2018 Update



Left to right: Rick Gagne, P.Geo, Gavin Isenor, P.Geo, Beverley Smith, P.Geo, FGC, Belinda Culgin, P.Geo, Paul Batson, P.Geo, FGC, David Carter, P.Geo, FGC.

Since our AGM last April, Council has been meeting regularly to review Operations and Committee Reports and approve new members as MIT or P.Geo., as well as motions related to the Association such as, **revising the MIT application requirements** to waive the application fee for applicants from a Nova Scotia university who apply in their

year of graduation and opening a new GIC for the modest budget surplus from last year (i.e., \$15,000).

In June 2018, Jeff Parks, P.Geo, FGC (Geoscientists Canada Director), David Carter, P.Geo, FGC (APGNS Executive Director and Registrar) and I travelled to St. John's, NL for the **21st Annual General Meeting of Members of Geoscientists Canada**.

This trip provided an opportunity for the Presidents of the various Constituent Associations (CA) from across Canada to meet one another and share information on the challenges faced by each CA with regards to licensure compliance and enforcement, as well as progress made in relation to government and academia (including changes to course programming over the years to be in line with the Geoscience Knowledge and Experience requirements), provisions for continuing professional development and Geoscientists Canada/Canadian Federation of Earth Science publications like **“Geoscience and Canada, Understanding our Earth: The vital role of Canada’s geoscientists”** (available at https://geoscientistscanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/6559-GC-G4S-Booklet-spreads-ENG.web_.pdf).

We encourage everyone to read and share this beautifully prepared document (with scenic Canadian photographs and bios of Professional Geoscientists from across the country).

We continue to meet monthly throughout the summer. So, if there is anything that you would like to bring to Council’s attention, please feel free to contact us!

From the Registrar's Inbox* ...

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Competency Assurance Program.

The members of Geoscientists Nova Scotia approved the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Competency Assurance program in 2013. Since then, compliance with the mandatory annual reporting has increased steadily and will be the next challenge for the Association. While we believe that our members are competent practitioners, it is important for the Association to demonstrate to the public and to government that our professional com-



Registrar: David C. Carter, P.Geo, FGC.

petence and ethics are of the utmost importance in our role to protect the public. Our members understand that demonstrating professional competence is an important factor in maintaining our privilege of self-regulation.

Competency-Based Assessment.

The APGNS Admissions Board has utilized the Geoscience Knowledge and Experience Criteria for Professional Registration in Canada (GKE) as the fundamental reference in evaluating applications for professional registration since it was released in 2000. It was revised in 2008 and is currently undergoing minor revision for anticipated re-release this fall.

Through the Canadian Geoscience Standards Council (CGSC), Admissions Support Tools Project, phase 1 and 2, Geoscientists Canada is working toward the introduction of a competency-based assessment for the evaluation of applicants for registration, Members-in-Training, senior practitioners and internationally trained applicants. It is intended to evaluate the competencies that they have developed. It will be web-based, allowing easy access and transfer of information and data. Beta testing of the tool could begin as early as this fall / winter.

Certificate of Authorization.

The **Geoscience Profession Act** mandates that individuals and companies who offer, provide or undertake geoscience in Nova Scotia must be registered / licensed by APGNS.

The Act defines Geoscience by a non-individual as: *“a partnership, association of persons or body corporate, may undertake and carry out the application of geoscience in its own name provided that, one of its principal and customary functions is the application of geoscience and such application of*

From the Registrar's Inbox* ... Continued

geoscience is carried on under the supervision of a member or full-time permanent employee thereof, who in either case holds a certificate of professional geoscience registration or a licence to practise professional geoscience."

Just as APGNS members need to be competent, the Association must be able to demonstrate that companies holding a Certificate of Authorization are operating in an ethical and competent manner.

Ethics and Social Media.

Geoscientists Nova Scotia has recently ventured into the area of social media. Jeff Burke, P.Geo has been appointed APGNS Social Media Coordinator and we can expect to be part of an expanded presence.

Bob MacDonald, P.Eng (APEGGS Executive Director and Registrar) points out that social media is nothing new. From the earliest cave paintings to the invention of the printing press to letters to the editor, and internet postings, are all social media. Professionals always need to be cautious about what they say or write in public in case their words are interpreted as defamatory or unprofessional. The distinguishing factors of today's online electronic social media are their speed and abundance. Reputational damage happens much faster through social media and it can be much harder to fix. Some professionals are under the illusion that their personal social media accounts are protected as free speech and are not subject to professional ethics regulations. We should be aware that the courts have consistently deferred to the regulators on this matter, such as the case of a nurse who was disciplined for making disparaging comments about the health care system on her personal social media account.

Admissions Board.

The APGNS Admissions Board has not had many applications to review so far this year, however, there are approximately 15 applications in various stages of completeness to be submitted to the Board. The key elements of an application for professional registration are the application form, the academic transcripts, and the

Continued....Registrar Page 5

Jeff Parks, P.Geo, FGC: President-Elect of Geoscientists Canada

APGNS would like to congratulate Jeff Parks, P.Geo, FGC on his nomination and election as **President-Elect of Geoscientists Canada**. His term as President will start in June 2019 at the Geoscientists Canada meeting in Ottawa.

APGNS will host the Geoscientists Canada Directors and Members meeting in Nova Scotia in June 2020.

Geoscientists Canada Update

Mark Priddle, P.Geo., FGC.

Geoscientists Canada's Comments on the Government of Canada's Discussion Paper on Mining Ideas for the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan

Geoscience is a regulated profession in Canada and Geoscientists Canada is the national organization of the nine provincial and territorial regulatory bodies that govern Canada's professional geoscientists and geoscientists-in-training. The organization acts as the national and international voice of the Canadian geoscience regulators and co-ordinates the development of high national standards of admissions, competency, practice, and mobility to ensure that Canada is served by skilled, versatile, reputable, and accountable geoscience professionals.

Geoscientists Canada welcomes the opportunity to provide input and insight on the discussion paper. Canada's professional geoscientists and engineers are legally accountable and recognized worldwide as experts in a wide range of areas pertaining to mining and mineral exploration. With a professional duty to act with adequate knowledge and understanding when applying the principles of geoscience or engineering, and the obligation to safeguard the welfare of the public and life, health, and property, including the natural environment, professional geoscientists and engineers are instrumental in the responsible and sustainable development of Canada's natural resources.

As noted in the discussion paper, "the minerals and metals industry is a major generator of wealth and employment for Canadians." As well, "the Canadian minerals and metals industry is a global business." How very true those statements are; and how very many criteria affect how well those two statements dictate success for the industry. In order for the minerals and metals sector to succeed, we must:

- lower the risk to mining and exploration companies and investors;
- develop and maintain the confidence of the public in the industry;
- ensure inclusivity and diversity in our planning, developing a skilled workforce that reflects Canadian society, so that all Canadians share in the benefits of a healthy minerals and metals industry; and,
- invest in geoscience itself to ensure the ongoing success of the sector.

To those ends, Geoscientists Canada makes the following recommendations.

Mitigate Risk

In order to lower the risk to mining and exploration companies and their investors, it is imperative to bring about greater certainty in the areas of

Continued...Geoscience Page 7

Call for Social Planning Volunteer

APGNS is looking to throw a **members / volunteer appreciation event** in the fall and welcomes a volunteer to help plan this event! If you are interested, or know someone who may be, please reach out.

APGNS relies on member volunteers to fill its committees and councils. Volunteering as a planner for this event is a great way to expand your network and give back to the professional geologist/geoscientist community.

For information or inquires please email: exec.director@geoscientistsns.ca



APGNS attendees at the Geoscientists Canada Members Meeting, St John's, NL.

From Left to Right: David Carter, P.Ge, FGC, Jeff Parks, P.Ge, FGC, his wife Lynn and Beverley Smith, P.Ge, FGC.

Registrar (continued from page 3)

professional and character references. Other components are also included, for example, the cover letter, letters of support, information on a thesis or a publication, etc. However, most of the applications in the queue are waiting for a response from one or more of their references.

Providing a reference (character and experience) for an applicant is an important task and not one to be taken lightly by the professional. An applicant's reference should be provided by a registered professional who has known the applicant for at least one year and who is familiar with the applicant's geoscience work experience. It should not be considered a chore lacking importance for the professional. It should be considered as an opportunity to participate in the development of a junior professional. Professional references are also subject to the Association's Code of Ethics.

*(with excerpts from The Professional Edge, issue 174, May-June 2018, APEGS newsletter)

Geoscientists NS is on social media!

Stay up to date with Geoscientists NS news and events; learn about the benefits available for members; job postings; educational material; professional development; involvement in the community; and more.

Connect with us on **LinkedIn**

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/geoscientists-nova-scotia/>

or

follow us on **Twitter** @GeoscientistsNS

APGNS Manulife Insurance

Geoscientists Nova Scotia is a participant in the Manulife Insurance program based on our status as a Constituent Association of Geoscientists Canada and our recognition as a professional regulatory organization by Engineers Canada. The latest version of the program will launch in mid-Sept will celebrate the Manulife and Engineers Canada's 70th anniversary partnership, offering a host of new offers to benefit Geoscientists Nova Scotia members. The following are the new 70th anniversary offers and enhancements that are available to APGNS members:

70th Anniversary Offers & Enhancements:

1. **Lower Term Life Insurance Rates** – Rates to be reduced for all ages, smoker/non-smoker status and sex. Rate reduction ranging as low as 0.17% (56 to 60-year-old female non-smokers) to as high as 10.34% (31 to 35-year-old female non-smokers). The steepest discounts largely stemming from the 31 to 45-year-old, male/female non-smoker category (9.57% to 10.34% rate reduction)
2. **Higher Volume Discount Savings** – Coverage amounts of \$500,000 up to \$975,000 to receive a 10% volume discount (previously 5%) and coverage amounts of \$1M up to \$1.5M to receive a 15% volume discount (previously 10%)
3. **New Enhanced Waiver Of Premium / Job Loss Enhancement** – Premiums do not have to be paid for up to 12 months if the insured is unemployed for 30 consecutive days due to involuntary layoff, dismissal without cause or loss of self-employment

Note: As well as the 70th anniversary offers, Manulife will continue to promote the First-Time Applicant Offer (FTAO) to benefit new members, and for this promo Critical Illness insurance.

https://www.l.manulife.com/can/affinity/affinity.nsf/public/ec_fta?open&MKT=898EW

Geoscience (continued from page 4)

regulation, permitting, and land tenure. Reducing regulatory hurdles and standardizing regulation on a national level, along with clarity concerning land tenure will greatly lower risk and encourage international investment in Canada. Canada's professional geoscientists in the areas of mining and exploration are intimately familiar with regulation and permitting throughout Canada and would be an excellent resource during streamlining and standardization. Reliance on professional geoscientists and their knowledge of geoscience and their obligation to safeguard the public and the environment may assist with reducing regulatory hurdles.

Recommendation 1: To encourage international investment, lower the risk to the mining and exploration companies through reduced regulatory hurdles, greater clarity of regulation through standardization of regulation across Canada, greater certainty concerning land tenure, and reliance on registered professionals.

Public Confidence

Public confidence in the minerals and metals sector will also strengthen investment and social license in the industry. Relying on professionals who must meet documented standards of knowledge and experience, who are held accountable to legislated codes of ethics, and who act in the public interest is one way to build the public's confidence in the sector. Canada's professional geoscientists in the minerals and metals sector are recognized globally as experts. Promoting Canada's professionals and supporting their ongoing development will build public and investor confidence.

Recommendation 2: To build public confidence, promote Canada's expert, and legally accountable, geoscience professionals, and provide support for the ongoing development of qualified persons.

Inclusion & Diversity

An inclusive and diverse workforce which reflects Canadian demographics and which is trained to use technological advances and automation will be able to out-compete international organizations using low-cost labour. Building capacity in Aboriginal communities to access not only the training required as labour in the mining industry, but as professionals, is vital to the success of the minerals and metals sector. As well, bridging programs for internationally-trained geoscientists who have settled in Canada will help to build a professional workforce which reflects Canada's diversity and brings a wealth of new ideas to the sector.

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Recommendation 3: Support Aboriginal access to geoscience and engineering education and work experience for professional registration, and support bridging programs for internationally-trained geoscientists and engineers.

Invest in Geoscience

Geoscientists Canada also strongly encourages government investment in geoscience in order to encourage identification of new and better resources to allow Canada to be more globally competitive. As well, investment in Research and Development to identify alternatives to traditional processing techniques and to develop cost effective recycling capabilities to make the sector a truly circular economy will provide Canada with a global competitive edge.

Recommendation 4: Government investment in geoscience research and development to identify new and better resources as well as alternatives to traditional smelting techniques and the development of cost effective recycling capabilities.

Geoscientists Canada appreciates this opportunity to provide input on the discussion paper on Mining Ideas for the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan, and welcomes further collaboration as the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Mineral Industry on behalf of Canada's Ministers responsible for mining develops the Plan.

For further information, or to request a meeting, please contact Andrea Waldie, P.Geo., FGC, CEO, Geoscientists Canada, at tel: 604-412-4888 or at awaldie@geoscientistscanada.ca.

Sincerely,

Mark Priddle, P.Geo., FGC

President

Nrcan.cmmp-pcmm.rncan@canada.ca

Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

The latest edition of **The Geological Record** is now available on the Geoscience & Mines Branch website:

Spring 2018 Issue: <https://novascotia.ca/natr/meb/pdf/tgr.asp>

Call for Volunteers

APGNS relies on the skills and expertise, but mostly the dedication and pride of our Members and Members-in-Training. There are many opportunities to get involved with the Association. Members contribute their time, talent, and energy to APGNS each year. They are our lifeblood of the Association and provide a critical service.

Would you like to join those who are making significant contributions to APGNS by serving on a Committee, Board, or Executive, or by becoming a Mentor?

Email questions, comments, nominations, suggestions, etc. to exec.director@geoscientistsns.ca or call 902-420-9928 or contact a Committee Chair or a member of Council.

Why Volunteer?

- 'Give back' to your profession
- Contribute to the development of APGNS policies, direction and activities
- Offer fresh ideas
- Expand your business contacts and network; learn and expand your skills
- Earn CPD credits



APGNS AGM Council meeting. Left to right – Rick Gagne, P.Geo; Gavin Isenor, P.Geo; John Kozuskanich, P.Geo, Elizabeth McIsaac; Beverley Smith, P.Geo, FGC; Jeff Parks, P.Geo, FGC; Jennifer MacDonald, P.Geo, FGC; Paul Batson, P.Geo, FGC; Kelsey O'Brien, P.Geo; Kimberlea Green, P.Geo; Belinda Culgin, P.Geo; David Carter, P.Geo, FGC; Maylia Parker, P.Geo; Carl Makrides, P.Geo.

Join a Committee - The Committees of the Association include:

- Admissions Board (Brent Cox, P.Geo, Chair)
- Academic Advisory Committee (Cliff Stanley, P.Geo, FGC, Chair)
- Governance Committee (Jeff Parks, P.Geo, FGC, Chair)
- Environment Committee (Kim Green, P.Geo, Chair)
- Mining and Energy Committee (Rick Gagne, P.Geo, Chair)
- Licensure & Compliance & Enforcement
- Student Committee (Mike Power, P.Geo, Chair)
- Professional Development (Diane Webber, P.Geo, FGC, Chair)
- Insurance Task Group (**vacant**, Chair)
- Communications (**vacant**, Chair)
- Nominating Committee
- Executive Committee / Editorial Board

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John Kozuskanich, P.Geo.
Jeffrey Parks, P.Geo. FGC.
Roxanne Tate, P.Eng.

Appointments
Geoscientists Canada Director
Jeff Parks, P.Geo. FGC.

Canadian Geoscience Standards
Board Representative
Cliff Stanley, Ph.D, P.Geo, FGC.

National Professional Practice
Exam Advisory Committee
Robert Stewart, P.Geo.

Public Representatives
Elizabeth McIsaac,
Roxanne Tate, P.Eng.

Newsletter Editor
Kelsey O'Brien, P.Geo.
Kelsey.o'brien@stantec.com

Newsletter Advertising

Geoscientists Nova Scotia is now accepting newsletter advertising as full, 1/2 or 1/4 page camera ready inserts. All submitted advertising is subject to approval as per the AGNS Communications Policy.

For more information, or to submit camera ready layout material please contact David Carter, P.Geo, FGC - exec.director@geoscientistsns.ca

Location / Layout	Standard non-member rate per issue*	Standard member rate per issue*
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1/2 page	\$400.00	\$350.00
1/4 page	\$250.00	\$200.00

* full year subscriptions will receive a 10% discount

The **GeoGazette** is a quarterly publication of Geoscientists Nova Scotia.

Members are welcome and encouraged to submit editorials, letters to the editor and articles of interest, including photographs, for publication.

Opinions and views independently expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of Geoscientists Nova Scotia, the Council, Boards, Committees, and/or Staff.

Subscriptions to the **GeoGazette** are provided electronically to all registrants (members, licensees and members-in training, and student members) in good standing, and are included in the annual registration fees.

The **GeoGazette** will be distributed electronically and posted on the Association website (www.geoscientistsns.ca).

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APGNS Publication Policy

APGNS encourages the submission of articles and editorials for publication in the **GeoGazette** on topics related to the science and profession of geoscience.

Submittals shall be of interest to the members of APGNS, and others interested in earth science. Articles and editorials may be noted as follows at the discretion of the editor:

"The opinions, positions and conclusions presented herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions, positions or conclusions of APGNS."

All materials submitted for publication, including author opinions contained therein, shall include accurate and appropriate references. The Editor has the authority to solicit, edit, accept, or reject articles and editorials and other written material for publication. The APGNS Editorial Board has the authority, if it chooses to act on any particular case, to support or overrule actions of the Editor regarding the solicitation, editing, acceptance, or rejection of any particular article, editorial, or other written material for publication.