

APRIL 2000



Vol.1 No.1

APGNS Gazette*

A Newsletter of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia

President's Report



I am very pleased to have this opportunity to send a few words to our small, but growing membership. First, I must thank Jordan Mooers for kindly agreeing to edit this newsletter and prodding me for some information. You can read elsewhere about the history of the movement toward Professional Registration of geoscientists in Nova Scotia over the past decade.

Because of the withdrawal of the Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act (Bill 20) in 1996, the members of the "Ad hoc Committee" decided, with some reluctance, to found the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia under the Societies Act. It was becoming clear that such an Association was needed to provide a means of professional recognition for geoscientists working in the province, particularly with the move towards licensed site professionals from the

Continued on Page 3

The Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia
RR2, Site 1, Box 6
Oyster Pond, Nova Scotia
BOJ 1W0

The Road to Registration: The State of APGNS and NS Geoscientists

The recent history of professional registration of geoscientists in Nova Scotia starts in 1990. Laing Ferguson, who was on the Canadian Geoscience Council at the time, called a meeting at NSDME where he explained that across the country geoscientists were moving towards professional registration and that Nova Scotia was the only province in which there was no activity in this direction

A public meeting at the 1990 NSDME Open House resulted in the establishment of an ad hoc committee to investigate and consult widely with geoscientists in Nova Scotia. Subsequent surveys indicated that 90% of geoscientists in the province supported registration, and over 75% thought that becoming registered under a revised Engineering Act was the appropriate mechanism. As a result of this, discussions were opened between geoscientists and APENS regarding APENS Act revision.

During late 1994 and early 1995 a draft revision to the APENS Act was written. In 1996 the Act was withdrawn because of a dispute between Engineers and Architects. In 1997 APGNS was formed and discussions with APENS resumed in late 1999.

The Status in Other Provinces

Professional registration of geoscientists is in effect through joint associations with engineers in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Newfoundland, the Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan. In Ontario, geoscientists are organizing their own association since the engineers decided not to include geoscientists. In Quebec, geoscientists are registered in a separate professional organization. Since each provincial association recognizes the registration in the other provinces, the mobility of NS geoscientists will be improved by having registration in the province.

Will Registration be Mandatory?

Once the legislation is passed, and the new Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists is created, it will be mandatory that all persons who practice professional

geoscience or use the term "geologist," "geophysicist" or a related term for the same end, be registered.

Technical assistants need not be registered, providing that they are working under the direct supervision of a professional geoscientist.

Prospectors will not be affected by this legislation. For example, the prospectors who discovered Voisey Bay were not required to be registered under the Act in Newfoundland.

How Will Presently Practicing Geoscientists Become Registered?

Geoscientists have been joining APGNS for the past 15 months, going through a process patterned on that of APENS and other associations. Under the terms of the proposed act, APGNS members would automatically become members of the joint association, just as APENS members would.

Meeting Notes

Meetings of the APGNS Executive are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Porter Dillon Boardroom.



**“Two separate
and distinct
Professions
administered
by one
Association”**

Revision of the *Engineering Profession Act* to the *Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act*

A document titled *"An Act Respecting the Engineering And Geoscience Professions"* has been prepared by the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia (APENS) and submitted to a joint APENS/APGNS Act Revision 2000 Committee for action. The document is based on the existing Engineering Act and is designed to address "non-controversial" issues for revision.

The revised Act will include the registration of **professional geoscientists** and regulation of the **practice of professional geoscience** in Nova Scotia.

APENS intends to present the revised Act to their membership for approval in the Spring of 2000 and to the legislature in the Summer of 2000. They anticipate that it will be tabled for action by the Legislature during the Fall 2000 sitting.

The Act Revision Committee has met four times in 2000 to review the Act revision document as well as the process and to develop recommendations for Council. Pat Ryall and David Carter are the APGNS members of the Act Revision 2000 Committee.

Based on the discussions of the APGNS Board of Directors, comments from the annual general meeting of the Association, as well as input from members of the Association, several issues, which are considered critical for APGNS approval of the Act

revision, have been identified to the Act Revision 2000 Committee for action. These issues include:

- ▶ the recognition of two professions, engineering and geoscience, to be administered by one Association, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Nova Scotia (APEGNS);

- ▶ the definition of professional geoscience should be consistent with the definition accepted by the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists (CCPG); the following definition has been proposed:

"The practice of professional geoscience" means the performing of any activity that requires the application of the principles of the geological sciences, and that concerns the safeguarding of public welfare, life, health, property or economic interests, including, but not limited to:

A. investigations, interpretations, evaluations, consultations or management aimed at the discovery or development of metallic or non-metallic minerals, rocks, nuclear or fossil fuels, precious stones or water resources;

B. investigations, interpretations, evaluations, consultations or management relating to geoscientific properties, conditions or processes that may affect the well-being of the general public, including those pertaining to the preservation of the natural environment.

- ▶ there should be effective and continuous geoscience representation on the Executive Council of the new Association;

- ▶ the geoscience members of the new Association should be responsible for the evaluation of membership applications submitted by geoscientists;

- ▶ the geoscience members of the new Association should participate in the discipline process of the new Association, including geoscience representation on the Investigation and Discipline Committees and Panels.

- ▶ prospectors working on their claims in Nova Scotia should be exempt from the requirements of professional geoscience registration; the following statement has been recommended: ... *this Act does not apply to prevent persons from acquiring mineral rights or from performing work on mineral rights required under Provincial Legislation to maintain those titles in good standing provided that these persons do not hold themselves out as professional engineers and/or professional geoscientists.*

* The APGNS Gazette is produced and sponsored by MGI Limited.

Professions Act from Page 2

► there should be provision for the transfer of registration from the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia to the new Association; the following statement has been recommended: ... **All persons who were members of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia immediately prior to the coming into force of this Act are declared to be members of the Association of Professional**

►Engineers and Geoscientists of Nova Scotia and are deemed for all purposes of this Act to hold certificates of professional geoscience registration, which certificates remain in force until their cancellation or expiration as provided by subsection (6).

These issues have been presented to the Act Revision 2000 Committee for discussion and have been sympathetically received. Actions have

been identified for staff, committee members and legal council to develop background information on each of these issues for further discussion. The Committee will prepare recommendations on these and other issues for review and approval by both the APGNS Board of Directors and APENS Executive Council.

*-David C. Carter, P. Geo.
Vice-President, APGNS*



President's Report from Page 1

Department of the Environment. We got off to a slow start in the late 1998 and over the course of 1999 put all the procedures in place to admit members. This is a moderately complicated process following the example of other Associations in the country. I apologize to our early members for the long turnaround times. However, I am pleased to say that by now the major time constraint is the length of time it takes for us to receive references. So, if you are applying, please make sure your referees reply quickly - most do; or if you are asked for a reference, please do not delay - one slow reference is all it needs to hold up the whole process.

relatively modest compared to the previous attempt. The main ones are: to include geoscientists, adopt government guidelines to ease professional mobility between provinces, adopt gender neutral language, include government appointed lay people on the Board, and update fines to realistic levels. The plan is to have the revised Act to members of both Associations in the summer and to the Legislature in the Fall. Our first committee meeting was encouraging but I expect we will soon be down to the hard issues of building the structure of a joint Association which properly recognizes the two professions and protects the rights of geoscientists, who will always be a small minority.

We are now entering a new phase. On the one hand, we are trying to increase membership, while, at the same time, entering into negotiations with APENS on a revised Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act. Increased membership gives us more leverage in discussions with the Engineers. APENS' goals for this Act revision are

If you are not a member, I urge you to join so that you can become part of the process. If you are already a member, can I convince you to volunteer. We will need people to work on various committees, either in our current Association, or as geoscience representatives in the new APEGNS.

-Pat Ryall

APGNS Board Memebers

- Pat Ryall (President) patrick.ryall@dal.ca
- David Carter (Vice-President) dcc@ns.sympatico.ca
- Howard Donohoe (Secretary Treasurer) hvdonoho@gov.ns.ca
- Lynn Baechler baechler@ns.sympatico.ca
- James Fraser jim.fraser@mgi-limited.com
- Rick Gagne rghydro@waterwatch.com
- Richard Potter
- Theresa Rushton trushton@dillon.ca
- Peter Webster webster@mercatorgeo.com

APGNS FEES

Dues for 2000 Year	\$50.00
Registration Fee for 2000	\$25.00
Cost of the Stamp	\$20.00



Coming soon the APGNS Website -get applications On-Line