

# GeoGazette

Winter 2013

Volume III Issue 1

## Changes to the Geoscience Profession Act

*An update from the APGNS Governance Committee*

The Geoscience Profession Act was proclaimed in 2002. The past 11 years have been witness to many changes, including those which impact the regulation, registration and mobility of professional geoscientists in Canada. Therefore, in 2012, APGNS Council retained the services of Ms. Marjorie Hickey, QC, of the law firm McInnes Cooper, to advise and assist the APGNS Governance Committee with the review of the current legislation and to make recommendations regarding any required revisions.



The Governance Committee (comprising Jeff Parks, P.Geo, Vice-President, Bev Smith, P.Geo, and David Carter, P.Geo, Executive Director/Registrar) have committed a considerable amount of time and resources to review the legislation in Nova Scotia, as well as other jurisdictions in Canada. Of note, Nova Scotia is one of three Canadian jurisdictions that has stand-alone professional geoscience legislation (whereas, the others have joint engineering and geoscience legislation). To this end, the committee has discussed the Act revisions with members and has met with Ms. Hickey on several occasions.

The first step was to understand the advantages and limitations of the Association, including our numbers, our resources and current practices. The next step was to create a structure or framework that is comprised of legislation, regulations and by-laws and that will provide the authority and tools to undertake the Association's mandate to regulate the profession and to register professionals. Some changes are also required due to more recent legislation such as the NS Fair Registration Practices Act.

It is our intention that draft versions of the new Geoscience Profession Act and the new Regulations will be available for review and comment at the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Association. The AGM will be held on March 7, 2013 at the Great Hall, Dalhousie University Club. In addition to members of Council and the Governance Committee, Ms. Hickey has agreed to speak at the meeting and will be on hand to answer questions.

Once the Act and Regulations have been finalized, the Governance Committee will embark on a consultation process whereby stakeholders or interested parties will have a chance to review and comment on the proposed legislation. It is anticipated that the revised Act may be before the Legislative Assembly by the fall of 2013, and the new Regulations may be before the Governor-in-Council at approximately the same time. The by-laws of the Association will be also be revised in the context of the Act and Regulations. These will be presented to the membership for review and comment, possibly as early as the winter of 2013 / 2014.

For more information, questions or comments, please contact the Governance Committee at [info@geoscientistsns.ca](mailto:info@geoscientistsns.ca) or [registrar@geoscientistsns.ca](mailto:registrar@geoscientistsns.ca) or call David directly at 902-883-7415.

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## Calling all Volunteers...

Geoscientists Nova Scotia is growing – and we NEED your help. For the last ten years, many dedicated members of APGNS have been steadily building your Association and we are evolving with a new strategic plan under our belts, a review of the Act underway, and new committees being formed to achieve the goals of the Association and meet the expectations of its members.



Since we are a volunteer organization, it takes a little effort from a lot of Members, including Members-in-Training. Please take some time to consider helping out APGNS on one of the following committees:

- Licensure Awareness and Compliance (New)
- Mentorship (New)
- Professional Development
- Communications
- Environment
- Mining
- Energy
- Member Benefits (Insurance & Affinity)
- Governance
- Social

If you have questions or would like to contribute to building a vibrant organization by bringing new energy and perspectives, please contact Fred Bonner, President, ([president@geoscientistsns.ca](mailto:president@geoscientistsns.ca)) or Jeff Parks, President-Elect ([jparks@croworld.com](mailto:jparks@croworld.com)).

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## Notice of Appointment

*by David C. Carter, P.Geo, Executive Director / Registrar*

On behalf of Fred Bonner, P.Geo., President of Geoscientists Nova Scotia, and the Executive Committee and Council of the Association, I am pleased to announce that Nora Doran, P.Geo., has accepted the position as editor of the GeoGazette. Nora has assisted Gavin Kennedy, P.Geo., in editing previous editions and we are grateful for Gavin's work.

Nora plans to continue with the current format and the quarterly publication schedule, at least in the short term, but that there will also be significant changes. For example, the newsletter is considering accepting advertising from members, licensees and corporate certificate holders. Ad space may be available from business cards to full page size. Editorial submissions, geoscience related articles, reviews, and photographs may also be considered for publication, pending finalization of the Association communications policy and approval by the Editorial Board. Perhaps you would enjoy adding a front page / cover photo credit to your CV? There are also opportunities to participate on the APGNS Communications Committee if you want to get involved.



We welcome Nora to her new role as Editor and encourage members to forward submissions for her consideration at [Nora.Doran@aecom.com](mailto:Nora.Doran@aecom.com).

## Contaminated Site Regulations Update – Draft Ministerial Protocols

*An update from the APGNS Environment Committee*

*By Scott McCarthy*



### Environment

The Environment Committee has remained very active as Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) continues to make progress on the new *Contaminated Sites Regulations*. On December 6, 2012 Nova Scotia Environment released seven Draft Ministerial Protocols for stakeholder engagement and discussion purposes. The Environment Act amendments (which came into effect October 1, 2012) and the passing of the Contaminated Sites Regulations (which will come into effect as of July 6, 2013) have provided the basic outline of the process changes for administering contaminated sites, but until the release of these 7 protocols, the details have not been clear. The proposed protocols address Notification; Limited Remediation; Phase I ESA; Phase II ESA; Remediation Levels; Remedial Action Plans; and, Confirmation of Remediation. The protocols provide a clear process from initial site assessment and determination of contamination (using specific Environmental Quality Standards for evaluation) as well as specific notification requirements. Depending on the nature of contamination on the site and the remedial work completed, the process may involve either “limited remediation” or “full property remediation”. Closure is achieved with either a Record of Site Condition (which may have conditions attached) or a Declaration of Property Condition.



There are some key changes that are of particular interest to Site Professionals (Registered Professional Geoscientists or Professional Engineers with the required experience). The most important of these changes is the so-called duty to notify. The protocols outline clear requirements (i.e. concentrations and risk factors) that, when met, will trigger the requirement to notify NSE of contamination. Under current guidelines, the duty to notify has generally been the responsibility of the land owner. Site Professionals were generally not obligated to report contamination directly to NSE. However, the new Regulations and protocols WILL obligate Site Professionals to report to NSE contamination that they discover, encounter or become aware of in the course of their work. This requirement could change (or at the very least complicate) the typical consultant –client relationship as we know it. The process as currently presented will certainly increase the frequency of notifications, and will place added responsibility and liability on the Site Professional. It is also not yet clear what resources NSE will assign to administer or react to these notifications or the process changes as a whole. The protocols highlight the importance of the Site Professional role, as the Site Professional will also be responsible for preparing and submitting Environmental Site Assessments, Remedial Action Plans, and certifying the Record of Site Condition or Declaration of Property Condition documents.

We feel that there are several positive points in these draft protocols for our members whose professional practice includes the assessment and remediation of contaminated sites because the increased role of the Site Professional should have a positive impact on the reliability and accuracy of the process. There are other points that we have questioned and have asked for clarification on, and we will continue to pursue these matters.

The new Contaminated Sites Guidelines can be accessed from Nova Scotia Environment's website: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/contaminatedsites>.

## The APGNS Executive Director / Registrar's Report

By: David C. Carter, P. Geo.

10 years later and the Association continues to develop and grow and be recognized.

The Nova Scotia Environment, Contaminated Sites Regulations, Section 5(1), sets the qualifications for a "site professional" as registration or license under the *Geoscience Profession Act*. Provincial government geoscience job postings increasingly require that applicants be registered as professional geoscientists.

Membership in the Association continues to grow. Current applicants for professional registration include several senior practitioners from both the private sector and the NS Department of Natural Resources. These are important indications that the licensure awareness and compliance message is being received. It also reinforces the message we have delivered to geoscience students, "If you expect to work in the exploration industry or the environmental sector, if you want to file mineral resource reports or environmental compliance documents, now is the time to start working on your professional designation." It takes time, but the message is being received.

Mobility continues to be a hot topic for geoscientists in Canada and that means that facilitating mobility is an important issue for APGNS. We have adopted the *Framework for the Development of Geoscience Professional Practice Guidelines*. The framework sets out the principles concerning, 1) identifying the need for guidelines; 2) the process and methodology that should be followed in preparing guidelines, and 3) the structure and components of a typical practice guideline. It is intended to provide a consistent structure across Canada and will be important for those who practice in

multiple jurisdictions. The framework has been used to assist Canadian regulators in the development of geoscience protocols and standards of practice.

APGNS has also adopted the *Geoscience Knowledge and Experience Requirements for Professional Registration in Canada* as well as the *Framework for Assessment in the Licensing of Professional Geoscientists in Canada*. The GKE lays out the requirements for professional registration and the Framework describes the processes for admission.

We are also participating in the *Canadian Geoscience Standards Board, Admissions Support Tools Project*. This federally funded project is considering competency profiles for the evaluation of applications. Cliff Stanley, P. Geo., Brent Cox, P. Geo. and David Carter, P. Geo., represent APGNS on the project.

APGNS Council has established two new committees. The first, the *Licensure Awareness and Compliance Committee* will work to promote the Association in the geoscience community. The second, the *Mentorship Committee*, will work on assisting the Members-in-Training in understanding and meeting the registration requirements and in their transition to full membership. There are opportunities for interested volunteers to participate on both committees.

For more information, question or comments, please contact us at: [info@geoscientistsns.ca](mailto:info@geoscientistsns.ca) or [registrar@geoscientistsns.ca](mailto:registrar@geoscientistsns.ca) or you can reach me directly at 902-883-7415.

## Update on Geoscientists Canada

by Andrew Cameron, P.Geo.

Geoscientists Canada (CCPG) Formerly Known as the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists is an organization of organizations that regulate the profession of geoscience in Canada. There are ten such organizations in Canada. There is no regulation of the profession in Prince Edward Island nor the Yukon. Seven of the member organizations are combined engineering geoscience organizations. Three are "stand alone" geoscience organizations - Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia is the smallest organization, however there are more geoscientists registered in Nova Scotia (180) than New Brunswick (145). Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and NWT have geoscientist populations around 250 each.

The organization works as a federation. That is each member association has a single vote. Some of the larger organizations (Alberta pop. near 5000 and Ontario pop. near 2000) would like representation by population. Currently (January 2013) Geoscientists Canada is midway through a five year (2010-2015) Strategic Plan.

The Mission of the organization is to develop consistent high standards for licensure and practice of geoscience, facilitate national and international mobility and promote the recognition of Canadian Professional Geoscientists. The Vision is to be the organization that provides national leadership in Canadian Geoscience and be recognized as representing Canadian Professional Geoscience nationally and internationally. Much of this information and more is found on the organization's web site. [www.ccpge.ca](http://www.ccpge.ca)

The Strategic Plan is not currently posted on the site. The Plan contains thirty-two initiatives under six strategic objectives with three themes – Service to the Public,

Service to Constituent Associations and Service to Geoscience. The first objective is that ALL practicing geoscientists are P.Geo's. There are ten initiatives associated with this objective. The second objective is that professional practice is conducted with consistent and high standards. There are eight initiatives associated with this objective. Most are managed by the Canadian Geoscience Standards Board. The third and four objectives relate to Service to CA's and contain eleven initiatives related to profile and communications. The last two objectives with three initiatives are related to mobility both nationally and internationally.

While early implementation of the Strategic Plan focused on Licensure. Recent activities have responded the Federal Government's agenda for acceptance of international candidates and standardization of qualifications across Canada. Geoscience Canada has been the recipient of two large federal contracts to deal with this issue.

In 2013 Geoscience Canada will award a new designation to a number of prominent geoscientists across Canada. The Fellowship of Geoscience (F o G) will provide additional notation for those eligible.

Our New Council will need to appoint an aggressive diplomat to keep Geoscience Canada working for Geoscience Nova Scotia rather than implementing the Federal agenda.

## Annual General Meeting & Awards Presentation

The Association will host the Annual General Meeting on Thursday March 7, 2013 at the Dalhousie University Club. As per previous events, there will be an Ice-Breaker Reception at 5:30pm followed by a dinner, presentation of awards and an efficient business meeting and in the Great Hall. Members, Members-in-Training and student members, as well as their guests, are invited to attend.



Our guest speaker for the event will be Ms. Marjorie Hickey, QC, Board Director / Partner at the law firm of McInnes Cooper. Marjorie has been retained by the Association to assist in the revision of the Geoscience Profession Act as well as the drafting of the associated Regulations and by-laws. Her presentation will discuss an overview of the process and progress of the project. Copies of the DRAFT Act and Regulations will be circulated prior to the event. For more information on Ms. Hickey, see her corporate profile as follows: <http://www.mcinnescooper.com/people/marjorie-hickey/>

The Council will be presenting the following prestigious award during the evening:

**Excellence in Geoscience Award:**  
*Recognizing Outstanding Achievement in Professional Geoscience*

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## APGNS Holiday Social Event a Success

The Annual Geoscientists Nova Scotia Holiday Social was held at Brewdebaker's Tap and Grill on 13 December 2012. Fifteen members gathered to mingle with their Geoscientists Nova Scotia colleagues for some appetizers and holiday cheer.

The Social committee would like to thank the event sponsors Pinchin LeBlanc Environmental Ltd. and Hy-Grade Geoscience for their donations which made for a very enjoyable evening. Door prize gift baskets were won by Marcos Zentilli and Bridget Adams.



Come on out to the Ice Breaker Reception at the AGM at 5:30pm at the Dalhousie University Club pub, to mix and mingle with your fellow Association members.

## New Council Elect

A Call for Nominations was made to the membership by Council Secretary, Bridget Adams on November 15, 2012. Nominations closed on December 10. The nominations committee concluded that no ballot was required, since the number of nominees matched the number of vacancies, and the proposed slate of Councillors and Officers was declared elected.

The term of the Council Elect will be as follows:

Council- Elect		Term Ending
President	Jeff Parks, P.Geo.	2013
Vice President	Scott McCarthy, P.Geo.	2013
Past President:	Fred Bonner, P.Geo.	2013
Councillors	Paul Batson, P.Geo.	2013
	Diane Webber, P.Geo.	2013
	Marcos Zentilli, P.Geo.	2013
	Rick Horne, P.Geo.	2014
	Jennifer McDonald, P.Geo.	2014
	Beverley Smith, P.Geo.	2014

Scott McCarthy, P.Geo has been elected to vice president and will vacate his councillor position with one year remaining in his term. Marcos Zentilli, P.Geo has been elected to complete the remaining one year term of this councillor position.

Thank you to our outgoing Council members including Past President, Gavin Kennedy, P.Geo., and Councillors Robert Cuthbert, P.Geo., Nora Doran, P.Geo., and Stephen Sauveur, P.Geo.

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## Membership Update

	Pending Applications	MIT's	P.Geo's	Certificates of Authorization	Student memberships
Totals	18	27	161	39	11