

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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*Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia*



**GEOSCIENTISTS**  
NOVA SCOTIA

# ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2023 APGNS Annual General Meeting Program

April 28, 2023 at 11 am

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and Introductions  
*Welcome and greetings from Geoscientists Canada*
3. Approval of the Agenda  
*Motion to adopt the agenda*
4. Recognition of Past-Presidents and Introduction of the 2022-2023 Council
5. Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting  
*Motion to adopt the Minutes*  
*Business arising from the Minutes*
6. Presidents Report
7. Executive Director and Registrar's Report
8. Treasurer's Report (Audit Committee Report; Independent Financial Review Engagement Report and Appointment of 2023 Year-End Financial Reviewer)  
*Motion to accept the Executive reports, financial reviewer appointment*
9. Committee Reports
  - a. Admissions Board Report
  - b. Student Committee
  - c. Environment Committee
  - d. Mining and Energy Committee
  - e. Communication Committee
  - f. Geoscientists Canada Director
  - g. Audit Committee*Motion to accept the Committee reports*
10. Nominations Committee Report  
*Motion to accept the Nominations Committee report*
11. Introduction of 2023-2024 Council and recognition of out-going Councilors
12. Award Presentations  
*2023 Exemplary Service Award*  
*2023 FGC award*
13. In-coming President's Remarks
14. New Business
  - a) Status of the Geoscience Profession Act and Geoscience Practice Regulations;
  - b) Nova Scotia Dept. of Natural Resources & Renewable stakeholder engagement.
15. Adjournment  
*Motion to adjourn*

**GEOSCIENTISTS**  
NOVA SCOTIA

# Past Presidents

<b>1999-2001</b>	Patrick J.C.Ryall, Ph.D., P.Geo., FGC
<b>2001-2003</b>	David C.Carter, MSc., P.Geo., FGC
<b>2003-2004</b>	James H. Fraser, MAsC., P.Geo., FGC
<b>2004-2005</b>	Theresa A. Rushton, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2005-2006</b>	Andrew D. Cameron, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2006-2007</b>	Paul LaFleche, Ph.D., P.Geo., FGC
<b>2007-2008</b>	Gordon Check, MAsC., P.Geo., FGC
<b>2008-2008</b>	Scott Llewellyn, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2008-2010</b>	Beverley Smith, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2010-2011</b>	Chrystal Kennedy, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2011-2012</b>	Gavin Kennedy, MSc., P.Geo., FGC
<b>2012-2013</b>	Fred Bonner, MAsC., P.Geo., FGC
<b>2013-2014</b>	Jeff Parks, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2014-2015</b>	Scott McCarthy, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2015-2016</b>	Paul Batson, MSc, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2016-2017</b>	Jennifer McDonald, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2017-2018</b>	Belinda Culgin, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2018-2019</b>	Beverley Smith, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2019-2020</b>	Gavin Isenor, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2020-2021</b>	Kimberlea Green, MSc, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2021-2022</b>	Daniel Parker, P.Geo., FGC
<b>2022-2023</b>	Robert Cuthbert, P.Geo.

# 2022-2023 Council

Geoscientist Nova Scotia Council



President  
Robert Cuthbert, P.Geo.



Past-President  
Dan Parker, P.Geo., FGC



Vice President  
Scott Conrod, P.Geo.



Executive Director & Registrar  
David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC



Councilor  
Rick Gagne, P.Geo., FGC



Councilor  
Jim Reeves, P.Geo.



Councilor  
Mike Power, P.Geo.



Councilor  
Julie Griffiths, P.Geo.



Councilor  
Wren Bruce, P.Geo.



Councilor  
Peter Oram, P.Geo.



Secretary  
Belinda Culgin, P.Geo., FGC



Treasurer  
Paul Batson P.Geo., FGC



Public Representative  
George Goad, P.Eng., FEC



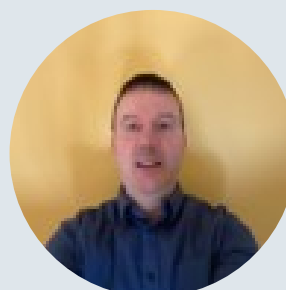
Geoscientist Canada  
Director  
Beverley Smith P.Geo., FGC



National Professional Practice  
Committee  
Robert Stewart, P.Geo.



Canadian Geoscience Standards  
Council Representative  
Cliff Stanley, P.Geo., FGC



Chair of Admissions Board  
Brent Cox, P.Geo., FGC



GeoGazette Editor  
Fiona Gallacher, P.Geo.

# Minutes of the April 30, 2022 Annual General Meeting

## **1. Call to Order by DCC at 10:05 am.**

## **2. Welcome and Introductions:**

David Carter, P.Geo., FGC, welcome and greetings from Geoscientists Nova Scotia. Discussed virtual meeting rules of engagement. He recognized guests from Engineers Nova Scotia and representatives from Geoscience Canada. David introduced the 20th anniversary of Geoscientists Nova Scotia. Lapel pins were mailed out to members. HSE moment discussed. Session will be recorded. David introduced sponsors. Thanked volunteers and a special thanks to Fiona Gallacher. Dan Parker, P.Geo. acknowledged First Peoples and Traditional Territory.

Welcome & greetings from Geoscientists Canada representative Kevin Andsell, P.Geo., FGC. He provided an overview of 2021 highlights. Special thanks to Bev Smith, P.Geo. FGC for your role on the Geoscience Canada board.

## **3. Approval of the Agenda**

Dan Parker, P.Geo. reviewed the meeting agenda and called for motion to adopt the agenda.

Moved by: Scott Conrod, P.Geo.

Seconded by: Robert Cuthbert, P.Geo.

None opposed; motion carried.

## **4. Recognition of Past-Presidents and of the 2020-2021 Council**

Dan Parker, P.Geo. thanked past presidents for their participation. He introduced the 2022-2023 council members.

## **5. Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting**

Minutes of the 2021 AGM are provided in the 2021 Annual Report.

Dan Parker, P.Geo. called for a motion to adopt the Minutes.

Motion by: Rick Gagne

Seconded by: Bridgete Adams,

None opposed; motion carried

## **6. Business arising from the Minutes**

There were no action items arising from the minutes.

## **7. Presidents Report**

Dan Parker, P.Geo. presented the outgoing president message as noted in the 2021 Annual Report. It was a successful year with council's focus on building the strategy, salary survey, improving financials, and refreshing the website and GeoGazette. Thanks to volunteers in 2021 and welcome to new council members. Special thanks to David Carter, P.Geo., FGC for his role as Executive Director and Registrar. Welcomed Robert Cuthbert as the incoming president.

## **8. Executive Director and Registrar's Report**

David Carter, P. Geo. FGC provided an overview of the 2021 highlights as presented in the 2021 Annual Report. It was a successful year despite the pandemic challenges with a 5% increase in total memberships. The Geoscience Profession Act is nearing inclusion and approval by legislature. Once the act and regulations are approved the next steps will be to prepare and implement the by-laws and policies to be consistent with the Act and Regulations.

## Minutes of the April 30, 2022 Annual General Meeting

### **1. Treasurer's Report (Audit Committee Report; Independent Financial Review Engagement Report and Appointment of 2021 Year-End Financial Reviewer)**

Paul Batson, P.Geo., FGC. introduced the highlights of the Audit Committee Report; Independent Financial Review Engagement Report and Appointment of 2022 Year-End Financial Reviewer and directed members to the 2021 Annual Report. Paul thanked David MacDonald for the independent practitioner review. With council approval we changed our day-to-day bank from Scotia Bank to Credit Union. Main drivers for the change were the investment policy (Better Earth Portfolio with green technologies companies). Financial review by the audit committee was completed. David Carter, P. Geo. FGC. thanked Rick Gagne, P.Geo., FGC, Bridgette Adams, P.Geo., FGC, and Paul Batson, P.Geo., FGC for assisting with the audit committee review. They reviewed expense statements, and all accounts were considered to be reconciled (referred the members to the 2021 Annual Report for more details).

#### Motions:

- To accept the Executive reports as presented in the 2021 Annual Report  
Moved by: Robert Cuthbert,  
Seconded by Bob Stuart  
None opposed; motion carried
- Independent Financial Review Engagement Report as presented in the 2021 Annual Report:  
Move by: Scott Conrod  
Seconded by: Bob Stewart, all approved.  
None opposed; motion carried
- Financial Reviewer Appointment  
Moved by: Jeff Parks  
Seconded by: Bob Stuart  
None opposed, motion carried

### **10. Committee Reports**

David Carter, P.Geo. FGC provided an overview of the 2021 committee highlights for the following committees: Admissions Board Report; Student Committee; Environment Committee; Energy and Mining Energy Committee; and Communications Committee. New council will appoint new volunteers to committees and asked members to step forward if interested. A welcome from the Geoscientists Canada President (Kevin Ansdell)

Motion to accept the Committee reports

Moved by: Robert Cuthbert

Seconded by: Kelsey O'Brien

None opposed, motion carried

### **11. Nominations Committee Report**

Robert Cuthbert P.Geo. discussed the nomination committee report.

Motion to accept the Nominations Committee report

Moved by: Jeff Parks,

Seconded by: Bridgette Adams

None opposed, motion carried

## Minutes of the April 30, 2022 Annual General Meeting

### 12. 2022-2023 Council

Dan Parker, P.Geo. introduced the 2022-2023 new council and ex-officio members and recognized the efforts of the out-going Councilors.

### 13. Award Presentations

2022 Exemplary Service Award

Dan Parker, P.Geo. FGC. presented to Jeff Parks, P.Geo.

2022 FGC award

Bev Smith, P.Geo. FGC. presented to Dan Parker, P.Geo

### 14. In-coming President's Remarks.

Robert Cuthbert, P.Geo. introduced himself and reinforced the message provided in the 2021 Annual Report describing the initiatives for 2022. The strategic plan for 2022-2025 was founded on the member survey feedback. He referred the AGM members to review the plan appended to the 2021 Annual Report. Main goals are mentorship, outreach and education to the public, encouraging enrollment in university through outreach programs, and increase communication through social media. Equity, diversity and inclusion committee will be formed to connect the community with members.

### 15. New business.

Robert Cuthbert, P.Geo. opened the meeting for new business from the attendees. There was no new business brought forward.

Nova Scotia Dept of Natural Resources & Renewables presentation Nova Scotia Critical Minerals Plan by Diane Webber, P.Geo., FGC was scheduled to follow the AGM. In addition, Grant Wach, P. Geo. will be presenting the lunch and learn CDP session GHG, ESGs, SDG's, UNFC and APGNS -What is the significance of these acronyms to Professional Geoscientists.

### 16. Adjournment

Robert Cuthbert call for a motion to adjourn at 11:09 am.

Moved by: Bob Stuart



# APGNS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I reflect on the past year, I would like to express my gratitude to the volunteers that have given their time to participate on council, executive, Boards, or one of the many committees. Without your support the Association would not be able to accomplish many of the goals identified in the current Strategic Plan.

These goals were developed based on members' input, and I would like to highlight some of the progress that has been made over the past year. Our modernized Association website was recently launched following months of work with a web designer (MRD Strategies). I encourage you to take some time to navigate and explore the new site. We can update the site with new content and are always accepting pictures that capture geoscience. The website will have a narrated copy of our presentation for university students and our new Policy on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility.

Development of an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Committee has started. A group of volunteers held several meetings discussing this important subject. I expect there will be lots of uncomfortable conversations that will lead to increased understanding, learning, education, and progress toward a diverse and inclusive association. A Terms of Reference and Policy Statement has been drafted and approved by Council.

A lot of time this past year has been devoted to the revised Geoscience Profession Act. At risk of repeating messages of the past ten years, I would like to thank David Carter for leading this work. Continued regular meetings with the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables culminated in stakeholder engagement sessions this spring. This challenging work continues to move us ever closer to getting this revised Act to the Legislature.

I had the pleasure of attending this year's Earth Ring ceremony with sixteen students acknowledging their obligation to the profession and preparing for the next chapter of their career. Hopefully, they find Nova Scotia home and can become active members in the Association.

I would like to thank Beverly Smith, P.Geo., FGC for representing us on the Board of Directors of Geoscientists Canada and Cliff Stanley, P.Geo., FGC as our representative on the Canadian Geoscience Standards Council and keeping council informed. David Carter, P.Geo., FGC as Executive Director and Registrar for his passion and commitment to the work of advancing and promoting the association as a self-governing regulator of Geoscience in Nova Scotia.

To the outgoing Executive and Councillors (Dan Parker, P.Geo., FGC, Rick Gange, P.Geo., FGC, and Jim Reeves, P.Geo.), thank you for your dedication to our profession and your commitment to the Association.

I would like to welcome the incoming councillors: Mick O'Neill, P.Geo., Fiona Gallacher, P.Geo. (thank you also for your ongoing efforts with the newsletter), and Cliff Stanley, P.Geo., FGC (thank you also for being part of the Admissions Board).

As we close out our 20th year as an Association and I transition into the role of Past President, I look forward to working with our new President Scott Conrod, P.Geo., Vice President Mike Power, P.Geo., Council, Executive and the many volunteers and members that make our Association great.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert W. Cuthbert, P.Geo.  
APGNS President

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND REGISTRAR'S REPORT

*David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC*



As others have noted in this Annual Report, it has certainly been a challenging year. It continues to be, and to borrow a colleague's phrase once again, ... "business as usual, in a most unusual way."

This marks the fourth APGNS AGM to be held in the virtual environment. Informal surveys of our Executive, Council, Boards and Committees shows a 50/50 split for interest in returning to face-to-face gatherings. Even with the benefits of virtual meetings we are planning in-person gatherings.

First, we would like to express our gratitude to our sponsors and affinity partners; Stella-Jones, Arcadis, TD and Manulife Insurance, Dillon Consulting, CBCL and NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Virtual meetings and working from a home office several days per week are becoming more and more the new normal and, if there is one positive result, it is the number of members and guests and observers who have indicated their interest in the Association by planning to attend this meeting and we welcome all of you.

Activity reports from APGNS Boards, and Committees are presented in this annual report while some other Committees have had limited activities. On behalf of the Executive, the Council, the Association, and the Registrants, I extend our sincere thanks for the on-going commitment of time and effort from all our volunteers.

We are very pleased to report that the work on revising the **Geoscience Profession Act** and creating the **Geoscience Practice Regulations** has made significant progress in 2022 and 2023. This has largely been the result of support and assistance provided by the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables.

As part of the revision, we have met with Engineers Nova Scotia and the Prospectors Association and agreed to the appropriate wording for exemption clauses to be included in the legislation.

The Act and Regulations documents have been submitted by NSDNRR to the Cabinet for inclusion on an upcoming legislative order paper. In preparation for the legislature review, the Department has conducted a series of stakeholder engagement sessions and based on feedback from those sessions, we will finalize the Act and Regulations for consideration by the Legislature and Cabinet. Once the Act and Regulations are approved, the next step will be to prepare and implement the by-laws and policies that are consistent with the Act and Regulations.

On behalf of the Executive, Council and the registrants of the Association, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of Bev Smith, P.Geo., FGC who represents the Association on the **Board of Directors of Geoscientists Canada**. We have had a presence at Geoscientists Canada (GC) as an observer since 1999 and as a Constituent Association Member since 2002.

Thanks also to Cliff Stanley, P.Geo., FGC who has continued as the Nova Scotia representative on the **Canadian Geoscience Standards Council** since it was established.

I would also like to extend thanks to Robert (Bob) Stewart, P.Geo., FGC for his work on the **National Professional Practice Examination Committee**. He presents a geoscience voice and ensures that it is clearly reflected in their work. That is evident in the updating of the exam blueprint which is currently being finalized.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND REGISTRAR'S REPORT

CONTINUED

*David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC*

Special thanks to Paul Batson, P.Geo., FGC who has served on Council and as President (2015-2016) and who continues to serve as Treasurer of the Association and as a member of the Executive Committee. Paul and I represent the Association at the **National Finance Officers Group**. I am pleased to announce that Council has awarded Paul **Honorary Life Membership**.

APGNS representation in all of these national groups is fundamental to our mandate as a self-regulating professional organization under the **Geoscience Profession Act** to protect the public through the regulation of geoscience practice ("licence to practice") and the registration of individual and corporate geoscience practitioners ("right to title").

We were requested by the Department of Environment and Climate Change to participate on a task group (with Engineers Nova Scotia and the Land Surveyors Association) providing advice on the **Coastal Protection Regulations** which will define the role and responsibilities of the Designated Professional (DP). Also, we were requested by DNRR to review and provide comments on the **Critical Minerals Policy** which we did with input from the Mining and Energy Committee.

There are always opportunities for the Registrants to get involved on Association Boards, Committees and Task Groups. Note that participation in support of the Association activities will also be recognized and credited as **Continuing Professional Development** hours. The structure and composition of the various groups will be reviewed at the first meeting of 2023 Executive and Council, so if you would like to be involved in setting the path for the future of the Association, please volunteer.

I am pleased that Natasha MacAdam, P.Geo. has joined the communications team as our Social Media Coordinator. Thanks also to Fiona Gallacher, P.Geo. who continues as our GeoGazette newsletter and AGM Program editor. Rounding out the communications team is Colin Walker, P.Geo., FGC as website coordinator. I offer special congratulations to Colin as the 2023 **Exemplary Service Award** recipient. His calm and quiet management of the Association website for several years and his role with the refresh of the website have been valuable and appreciated.

The refresh of the Geoscientists Nova Scotia website is complete, and the site is active, and we think that it looks good, modern, and clean, as well as providing important information in an accessible layout. Please drop by for a look. If you have comments or questions, on anything related to the website or to communications in general, please pass them along. We are always looking for content, articles, upcoming events notices, professional development opportunities, geo-travels notes, and geo-related photos, etc. The website refresh was completed with assistance from the MDR Strategy Group, and we thank them.

APGNS continues to offer value to the members through affinity programs including the various insurance products available including 3rd party liability insurance. Our participation in these programs is based on our affiliation with Geoscientists Canada and Engineers Canada, which represents a significant purchasing block.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND REGISTRAR'S REPORT

CONTINUED

*David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC*

## APGNS Official Register as of April 28, 2023

APGNS Membership	Registrants
P.Geo. Members (not incl. pending)	213
License to Practice (LTP; non-resident)	21
Members-in-Training (MIT, not incl. pending)	22
Certificate of Authorization	49
Sole practitioners	24
Corporate	27
Total Registrants	305

## APGNS Total Membership Statistics 2013-2022

APGNS Membership 2013-2022	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
P.Geo. Members	165	165	187	172	172	184	179	193	192	209
License to Practice	4	4	8	10	8	26	24	27	22	25
Members-in-Training	24	40	20	15	21	18	18	23	19	24
Certificate of Authorization	40	24	50	43	48	52	47	47	51	52
Total Registrants	233	233	265	240	249	280	268	290	284	310

APGNS Members (P.Geo.) issued since last AGM	Employer
Daniel Rafuse, P.Geo.	Strum Consulting
Andrew Wagner, P.Geo.	Mercator Geological Services
Nathalie Sahakyan, P.Geo.	Englobe
Jennifer Pushie-Burgher, P.Geo.	EFI Global
Kacper Halama, P.Geo.	Goldspot Discoveries
Jeffrey De Lile, P.Geo.	Polytechnique Montreal Postdoc Fellow
Shawn Henry, P.Geo.	Mercator Geological Services
Trevor Kelly, P.Geo.	Dalhousie University
Jon Edwards, P.Geo.	BC Hydro
Erik Petersen, P.Geo.	Agnico Eagle Mines
Lindsay Debono, P.Geo.	unemployed
Robin Mann, P.Geo.	Liontown Resources

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND REGISTRAR'S REPORT

CONTINUED

*David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC*

APGNS License to Practice (LTP) Issued since last AGM	Employer
Megan Hughesman, P.Geol.	Stantec Consulting
Charles Kodors, P.Geo.	Brunswick Exploration Inc
Titia Praamsma, P.Geo.	Stantec Consulting
Marc Boivin, P.Geo.	MB Geosolutions
Chris Cooley, P.Geo.	Pario Eng & Enviro
Paul Hubley, P.Geo.	Hubley Geoscience
Lorna Williams, P.Geo.	Fugro GeoSurveys

APGNS Members-in-Training (MIT) since last AGM	Employer
Charlotte Adams	Golder Associates
Genevieve Malley	Mercator Geological Services
Matthew Oelschlagel	student
Shae Nickerson	Brunswick Exploration

APGNS Certificate of Authorization (CofA) issued since the last AGM
Erin Gravel Consulting
Brunswick Exploration Inc.
Arcadis Canada
Resourceful Geoscience Solutions Inc.
Hubley Geoscience
Fugro GeoSurveys

Stricken from the Register (as of March 31, 2023)
None to report

Respectfully submitted,  
David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC, Executive Director and  
Registrar

# APGNS TREASURER'S REPORT

*Paul Batson., P.Geo. FGC, Treasurer*



At the time of preparation of this report, the Audit Committee had not completed their review of the financial statements. However, the external accountant completed and submitted their review. This report is based on the bank reconciliation and the 2022 year-end income statement as confirmed by the Independent Practitioners Review Engagement Report (appended to this report). The Audit Committee noted several deficiencies which were related to change over of bookkeeping service providers, the subsequent internal staff changes as well as the change in credit card service providers and as well as changing bank accounts.

Based on the Independent Practitioners Review Engagement Report (appended to this report) at 2022 year-end, the total revenue was \$164,590.00 (\$159,901.00 in 2021), the total expenses were \$156,114.00 (\$134,371.00 in 2021), resulting in a net income of \$8,520.00. The net revenue can be attributed to slight (approx. 1%) growth in registrant numbers, a slight increase in professional fees and service charges and the savings related to travel, meeting restrictions and limited legal expenses.

As previously reported, Council approved an investment policy that allows for limited investment in secure accounts, i.e., one where the principal is guaranteed but where the rate of return is more than a standard GIC. Council agreed to move our day-to-day banking service to the Credit Union in the fall of 2021 in order to take advantage of an overall lower fee structure and an investment strategy that includes a guaranteed return on the principal investment and with a reasonable potential return, based on the markets. The CU investment product is marketed as the "Better Earth" portfolio which is comprised of green technology companies. We are maintaining investments with the Credit Union and Scotiabank in GIC accounts with a higher than average interest rate. The investment strategy was precipitated by consultation with other Constituent Associations through the National Financial Officers Group meetings and our own Council.

On behalf of APGNS Executive and Council, we would like to thank Jared Gray and Joelle Dollard of the Chartered Professional Accountants firm RGH for their thorough external review and year-end report for the year ending December 31st, 2022. In addition, we would also like to recognize the Audit Committee, Bridget Adams, P.Geo., FGC, Richard Gagne, P.Geo., FGC and Paul Batson, P.Geo., FGC for their diligent internal review. According to the RGH review, the APGNS was in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards. The unaudited Financial Statement for the year ending December 31st, 2022 prepared by the accounting firm of RGH is available for the membership to review.

We are pleased to report a surplus of revenue above expenditures of \$8,520.00, adjusted for amortization. We continued to follow a policy of conservative investment in 3 non-redeemable GIC's on the order of \$60,000.00. The decrease in cash over the previous year is largely due to the transfer of funds to GIC's.



Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Batson., P.Geo. FGC APGNS Treasurer  
David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC, Executive Director and  
Registrar

# 2023 - 2025 GEOSCIENTISTS OF NOVA SCOTIA, STRATEGIC PLAN

**Mission:** To protect the public through the regulation of professional Geoscience in Nova Scotia.

**Vision:** Based on the values of truth, honesty, and trustworthiness, the Association shall safeguard and hold paramount human life, welfare, and the environment in the practice of geoscience.

Strategic Priority	Value for Members	Licensure Awareness, Compliance & Enforcement	Awareness of the Profession and the Association	Good Governance
Objective	Recognition of “right to title” and “license to practice”. To enhance member recognition and satisfaction with the benefits of professional registration.	To strive for registration of all practicing geoscientists (P.Geo.). To promote high standards of professional practice.	To protect the public through the regulation of professional practice, promote the Association, its members, and the Geoscience Profession to a broad audience.	For the Association to be more influential and strongly positioned as the regulator of the Geoscience Profession in Nova Scotia.
Strategic Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional Development.</li> <li>Internal Communications.</li> <li>Mentorship.</li> <li>Affinity Programs.</li> <li>Peer and Community Recognition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government Relations.</li> <li>University Relations.</li> <li>Enforcement Strategies.</li> <li>Regulatory Awareness.</li> <li>Other Regulatory Organization Relations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal and External Communications.</li> <li>Public Profile.</li> <li>Geoscience Education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act, Regulations, and By-laws.</li> <li>Policies and Procedures.</li> </ul>
Current Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify opportunities for professional practice training and maintain the list of opportunities on the Association website.</li> <li>Requirement to submit annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) report.</li> <li>Publish the GeoGazette several times per year.</li> <li>Recognition of members through awards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and enhance relationship with government departments and universities with respect to licensure and regulatory matters.</li> <li>Encourage qualified civil servants and university professors to be registered and lead by example.</li> <li>Encourage through direct contact with individuals and companies that are practicing geoscience in Nova Scotia the requirement to be registered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain currency of the register of members and corporate on the Association website.</li> <li>Support and be represented at the Earth Ring Ceremony.</li> <li>Representation on the NPPE Advisory Committee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular correspondence with Department of Natural Resources and Renewables regarding status of Mineral Resources Act and Regulations and the Geoscience Profession Act.</li> <li>Regular correspondence with the Department of Environment and Climate Change regarding the status of the Contaminated Sites Regulations and the Coastal Protection Act.</li> </ul>

## 2023-2025 Geoscientists Nova Scotia, Strategic Plan

Strategic Priority	Value for Members	Licensure Awareness, Compliance & Enforcement	Awareness of the Profession and the Association	Good Governance
Goals by 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Association will have a competency-based assessment model in-line with other Canadian Engineering and Geoscience regulators.</li> <li>The Admissions Board will train assessors and mentors in the work experience competency (WEC) tool and will implement the tool during application review.</li> <li>Promote the Association through expanding annual presentations to students of all earth science/geology degree programs at Nova Scotia universities.</li> <li>A narrated copy of the student presentation will be maintained on the Association website under the student section.</li> <li>Develop on-line fillable forms for completion and submission through the Association website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the awareness, compliance, and enforcement information on the Association website.</li> <li>Liaise with the executive from each of the Nova Scotia university earth science/geology club/society to identify Association information and activities with a goal of increasing student membership and participation in the Association.</li> <li>Open dialogue with local university's administration regarding licensure requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.</li> <li>Update the communications plan.</li> <li>Content approved by Council will be posted on identified social media platforms.</li> <li>Develop and implement a plan to promote awareness of the Association and the practice of Professional Geoscience through public outreach and education for the public and school students.</li> <li>Develop criteria for application and award of a student scholarship (or young geoscientist/MIT award).</li> <li>Modernize the Association website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The revised Geoscience Profession Act will be proclaimed.</li> <li>The Geoscience Practice Regulations will be approved by Cabinet.</li> <li>The By-laws will be revised and approved by Council.</li> </ul>

# APGNS ADMISSIONS BOARD REPORT



In 2021, the APGNS Admissions Board met four times to review application files as summarized in the table below.

2022 Meeting	2022 Meeting Dates	Files Submitted for Review
22-01; Meeting #104	March 30, 2022	Charlotte Adams Scott Benton Lindsay Debono Corey James
21-02; Meeting #105	October 31, 2022	Matthew Oelschagel Jennifer Pushie-Burger Kacper Halama Joseph Edosa Jeffery DeLile Genevieve Malley Trevor Kelly

Note a P.Geo registration requires successful completion of the National Professional Practice Exam (NPPE). MIT's are required to acquire cumulative and progressive geoscience work experience and the NPPE in order to request transfer of registration status.

## General Comments

The members of the Admissions Board and the Chair are appointed by the Council. The Board reviews application files using the Geoscience Knowledge and Experience Requirements for Registration in Canada as the basic academic reference. The Board also evaluates geoscience work experience to determine if it is cumulative and progressive and sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant has the competence expected at entry to professional practice. The Board makes a registration recommendation to the Council.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brent Cox, P.Geo., FGC. (Chair)  
Theresa Rushton, P.Geo., FGC. (Secretary)  
Diane Webber, P.Geo., FGC.  
Paul Batson, P.Geo., FGC.  
Mark King, P.Geo., FGC.  
Cliff Stanley, P.Geo., FGC, Canadian Geoscience Standards Council  
Representative  
David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC, Registrar and Admissions Officers Group  
Representative

# APGNS STUDENT COMMITTEE REPORT



The Student Committee welcomed the full return of in-person events this academic year was able to attend and hold several in-person events in 2022/2023 to meet students, encourage potential future members of APGNS to think about their educational and work experience requirements to join our organization, and had fun conferencing at the AUGC.

In October 2022, Mike Power, P.Geo. (Committee Chair), got the opportunity to attend the Atlantic Universities Geoscience Conference (AUGC) 2022, which was held in-person at Acadian University campus in Wolfville. APGNS had a booth at the conference to share information about our organization and highlight the perks of Student Membership and the work we are doing on behalf of membership. Mike was also selected as a presentation judge for the student research talks, featuring a number of excellent student presentations from Atlantic Canadian universities summarizing their research projects at various universities and geologically exotic around the province and across the country. Congratulations to all of the participants and winners!

Two Student Awareness Talks were given in the Halifax area this year. The Student Awareness Talk details the requirements to become a P.Geo. in Nova Scotia to the various individuals in attendance, which included appropriate geoscience education, work experience, good character, and language proficiency. Mike gave one talk at the DIRT talk series at Dalhousie's Dawson Geology Club series in November to a well attended and enthusiastic audience (even for a late Friday afternoon). Mike was also accompanied by Committee Member Paul LaFleche, P.Geo. to give the talk to a well-attended and highly inquisitive groups of attendees at the SMU Department of Geology/Society of Economic Geologists Student Chapter this past December.

The committee is looking forward to even more in-person events in the coming school year, including more outreach talks and resurrecting the highly successful Student-Industry Networking Night to connect students with future geoscience employers in Nova Scotia and beyond.



**APGNS Student Committee  
Chair Mike  
Power, P.Geo., presenting  
the APGNS Student  
Awareness talks**



**Ring Ceremony 2022**

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Power, P.Geo.  
Chair APGNS Student Committee

# APGNS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT



The Environment Committee remained active throughout 2022. All meetings were virtual during the year and the participation has been excellent. Members of the committee look forward to in-person meetings in the future when everyone feels comfortable getting together.

The Environment Committee is always seeking volunteers including a new committee Chair. The benefit of joining this committee is active members get to connect with other Geoscientists, share concepts and insights about current and future Environment topics in Nova Scotia and across Canada, collaborate and share ideas, and provide continuous improvement and current knowledge for APGNS members from an Environment perspective.

The Environment Committee has been active with the following topics:

- **APGNS Geoscience Professional Practice Guideline for Conducting Phase 1 and Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessments in Nova Scotia:** The committee is updating the 2013 version of the document which was prepared in comparison with the Nova Scotia Environment (NSE), 2013 Contaminated Sites Regulations (<https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/envcontsite.htm>) and Protocols (<https://novascotia.ca/nse/contaminatedsites/protocols.asp>) at that time. The Nova Scotia Environment and Climate and Change (NSECC) has updated the Contaminated Sites Protocols in September 2021 along with October 2022 amendments (<https://novascotia.ca/nse/contaminatedsites/docs/contaminated-sites-protocols-notice-of-amendments-2022.pdf>). The committee is modernizing the Geoscience Professional Practice Guideline for Conducting Phase 1 and Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment.
- **NSECC Coastal Protection Act:** NSECC has presented to the committee several times with respect to the Coast Protection Act (CPA). Climate Change is real and coastal impacts observed during the past few hurricanes, including Hurricane Fiona, provide real time examples for the need to protect Nova Scotia's coastline. Members of the Environment Committee and APGNS have attended NSECC engagement/consultation sessions with respect to CPA, as well as on the CPA Regulations Task Group. The Regulations will clearly define the role and responsibilities of the designated professional (DP), and future services and methods required to assess coastlines in Nova Scotia. NSECC CPA information is located at <https://novascotia.ca/coast/>

The Environment Committee is currently seeking a new Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Scott Conrod, P.Geo., Chair

# APGNS ENERGY AND MINES COMMITTEE REPORT



The Mining and Energy Committee was established by Council with a mandate to identify and monitor the current and pending issues and/or events in the mining and energy sectors. The Committee provides research, information, and recommendations for consideration by Council.

Covid-19 presented barriers in Committee activities, as typically do the spring and summer, which are the start of field season for many of the Committee members. However, during 2022 and the start of 2023, four Committee meetings were held -- all of them virtual meetings.

The current list of Committee members includes the following Association members:

Rick Gagne, P.Geo., FGC, Chair	Arden Thompson, P.Geo.
Bob MacDonald, P.Geo.	Greg Isenor, P.Geo.
Carl Makrides, P.Geo.	Tim Bourque, P.Geo.
Chrystal Kennedy, P.Geo.	Jeff Burke, P.Geo.
Edwin MacDonald, P.Geo.	Duncan MacInnis, P.Geo.
Mike Power, P.Geo.	Andrew Blackmer, P.Geo.

Maureen Mathew, P.Geo., who was a member of the committee since before Covid and up to early 2023, has stepped down due to commitments with other Association Committees. Her input will be missed.

Several topics of interest and action items were discussed as usual during meetings, including:

- defining the committee structure (chair, co-chair, secretary),
- review of committee terms of reference, mandate, procedures, policies, reporting to council, etc.,
- discussions regarding the Mineral Resources Act and Regulations; the Mineral Resources
- Development Fund (MRDF) (activity still in progress),
- review of the issues/interests/direction re. public awareness regarding mineral and energy resource exploration, feasibility and development activities, and
- a need to change the general focus of the Committee mandate, as conventional energy (coal, petroleum) is being replaced by critical minerals.

In light of the last bullet above, for our December 2022 Committee meeting we invited a guest participant -- a retired Engineer who began his career on the design and early commissioning of the Point Lepreau nuclear generating station in New Brunswick, but who later moved to Alberta and spent the last couple of decades there focusing on the designs of alternative energy systems (mostly solar) for remote petroleum producing facilities where grid power is not available. His input to our discussion, which revolved around solar, wind and Small Modular Reactors, was most enlightening. Additionally, also related to the last bullet above, Committee discussions just prior to, during, and subsequent to the December meeting were mostly related to the Federal and Nova Scotia policies on Critical Minerals aimed at the goal of Net-Zero by 2050. Discussions revolved around the timelines for local, national, and international exploration and subsequent mine development as well as the potential shortfall of geoscientists that may be in the way of achieving those goals.

As such:

- the need to find ways to coordinate activities of the APGNS Mining & Energy Committee with the Environment Committee on matters relating to alternate energy and Nova Scotia's critical minerals policy/mandate was identified, and
- in response to an invitation by the Nova Scotia Dept. of Natural Resources and Renewables for APGNS to review and comment on their up-coming Critical Minerals Policy, the Mining and Energy Committee reviewed the policy and made recommendations for a response.

The Committee is always open for volunteers, up to and including the Chair of the Mining and Energy Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Gagné, P.Geo., FGC

# APGNS COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT



## GeoGazette Report

The GeoGazette newsletter continues to be the flagship of the Association and an important line of communication with our members, particularly as most interactions continue to be virtual this year!

The GeoGazette newsletter is under the direction of Fiona Gallacher, P.Geo. as editor. She guided the new look and direction which was introduced in 2021 and very well received by our members and friends. We continue to present the GeoGazette as “modern” and “clean” and to ensure that it fits with the digital delivery medium.

This past year, APGNS published two issues of the GeoGazette; March 2022; and November 2022. As always, the GeoGazette welcomes member contributions or ideas.

## Social Media Report

APGNS also continues to be active on social media, specifically LinkedIn, and we are established on Twitter and are building a presence on Facebook. We are pleased that Natasha MacAdam, P.Geo. has joined the team as social media co-ordinator. Check out and follow Geoscientists Nova Scotia on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/geoscientists-nova-scotia/> or on Twitter: @GeoscientistsNS; <https://twitter.com/GeoscientistsNS>, or on Facebook [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089518766406](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089518766406)

## Website Report

We have completed an update / refresh of the APGNS website with the assistance of the MRD Strategy Group. The new site (<https://www.geoscientistsns.ca>) will continue to be updated frequently to show news and upcoming events, including professional development opportunities under the direction of website coordinator Colin Walker, P.Geo., FGC.

The website was redesigned in fall 2022-winter 2023 by our new web developer, MDR Strategy. The content and functions of the website have been given a new look and organizational structure. The updated site is in line with current trends and is intended to offer a more streamlined experience for users inside and outside of the organization. The update has been an iterative process with feedback from Council and the website committee. Regular visitors to the site will notice that the new site has been updated with member photos from around the province, with a focus on geoscientists in action. Please send us your photos! We encourage and welcome member feedback at all times.

# CONTINUED



As one of the primary forward-facing tools of APGNS, the website has the following jobs:

- to introduce the organization to prospective members and members of the public;
- to state our mandate as professionals to promote the safety and welfare of the public and the protection of the environment while contributing significantly to the economy of Nova Scotia;
- to help and encourage prospective members with registration;
- to provide existing members with organization news and access to policies and the benefits of membership;
- to act as an efficient portal for payments; and
- to provide a registry of members and organizations in good standing

The website is updated weekly with news of events and technical presentations that may be of interest to members, which is intended to assist members in building and maintaining continued professional development. The site also acts as a repository of the current and past GeoGazettes, where you can find more detailed updates on organization business and member contributions. On-going future goals of the website are to provide an on-line platform for registration, and automated updates to the member registry.

A review of “traffic” numbers suggests that the website is serving as a resource for members of the public wishing to learn more about us, or to check the list of Registered Members, Licensees, and MIT’s and Certificate holders. The site forms a cornerstone of the application and registration process as demonstrated by the traffic of registrants and applicants using the secure payment tab to pay annual fees. In November 2022 we introduced e-transfer as a means to pay professional fees. Even with the short notice many members used that method and we will continue to encourage use that payment method.

The two highest-traffic areas of the website provide information on becoming a member, and resources for existing members. These resources are a key component for compliance with the NS Fair Registration Practices Act. Members and applicants can continue to pay dues, purchase event tickets, and order earth rings using the Payments icon at the top-right of the home page or be e-transfer to [info@geoscientistsns.ca](mailto:info@geoscientistsns.ca). We invite you to visit the often to stay informed on events.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fiona Gallacher, P.Geo., Editor  
Colin Walker, P.Geo., Website Coordinator  
Natasha McAdam, P.Geo., Social Media Coordinator  
David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC Executive Director and Registrar

# GEOSCIENTIST CANADA DIRECTOR REPORT



Over the past year, I have been honoured to participate in the Geoscientists Canada Board of Directors meetings as the Director for Nova Scotia. Of note, Geoscientists Canada has decided to hold only two Board meetings face to face (rather than three) and the other three meetings virtually going forward. During 2022, this included travel to Saskatoon for the 74th Board meeting and 25th AGM in June and to Toronto for the November Board meeting.

In November, Geoscientists Canada was pleased to announce the return of l'Ordre des géologues du Québec (OGQ) as a member of Geoscientists Canada! Geoscientists Canada's mission is to support its members in their efforts to improve the effectiveness of regulation in Canada and achieve excellence in the geoscience profession.

Geoscientists Canada (GC) is currently reviewing their Strategic Plan, which was based on a 2019 ranking of initiatives by the Constituent Associations (CAs) now referred to as Members. Since several of these initiatives have now been completed, it was considered to be a good time to review the plan. Phase 1 (completed in January) involved the GC Directors' initial input and Phase 2 (currently underway) involves the GC Members' review of the initial draft initiatives list, with initiative suggestions to align with GC's Statement of Purpose shown below.

*Geoscientists Canada/Géoscientifiques Canada (Geoscientists Canada) exists to serve its Members—the provincial and territorial constituent associations/ordre—whose individual legislative mandates are to regulate the practice of geoscience. Geoscientists Canada's purpose is to engage with and facilitate cooperation among its Members, undertake work on their behalf, represent them nationally and internationally, and support its Members. In fulfilling its purpose, Geoscientists Canada will carry out various activities, including:*

<b>1. Championing effective regulation of the geoscience profession in Canada in the public interest;</b>
<b>2. Aligning regulation of the profession of geoscience Canada-wide;</b>
<b>3. Enhancing public confidence in the competency and integrity of geoscientists in the practice of their profession;</b>
<b>4. Providing a voice for the provincial and territorial constituent associations/ordre nationally and internationally;</b>
5. Facilitating assemblies, conferences, and educational forums;
6. Cooperating with other associations or bodies having objectives similar or comparable to Geoscientists Canada; and
7. Protecting, maintaining, or dealing with trademarks or other intellectual property pertaining to the geoscience profession or its objects.

*Activities 1-4, indicated in **red** in the above table, are considered to be the core activities of Geoscientists Canada. These activities are titled Objectives in the Implementation Plan Table. Activities 5-7 of the Purpose Statement are considered to be supportive of the core.*

# C O N T I N U E D



Phases 3 and 4 involve review by the Board and then GC Member ranking of initiatives. Phases 5 and 6 culminate in Board's approval of the new "Implementation Plan" (anticipated to be at the November Board meeting).

In June 2022, the Professional Practice Committee commenced a review of the National Professional Practice Exam (NPPE) Blueprint. The current blueprint (last reviewed in 2017) was developed through the collaboration of engineer and geoscience subject matter experts across Canada; the blueprint content and question weighting were then validated at the national level by the National Professional Practice Examination Advisory Committee (NPPEAC). This review is being taken from the perspective of what would be considered important for a new professional geoscientist to know at entry to practice. In the future, the Professional Practice Committee will be looking at the development of a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Model Program and guidance document.

I have also been involved with the Audit Committee, which reviewed the draft financial statements of Geoscientists Canada and met with the Auditors in March. Jeff Parks, P.Geo., FGC, continues to be involved with the Governance Committee, which undertook a review of various Board documents and policies in 2022. A Working Group of the Securities Committee has been established to develop a Public Reporting Short Course for Practicing Professionals.

At the upcoming April Board meeting, it is anticipated topics of discussion (outside those noted above) will include:

- Implementing the developed Canadian Work-Environment Experience Competencies (CWECC) into the online Competency Based Assessment System;
- United Nations Framework Classification;
- Global Geoscience Professionalism;
- Promoting Geoscience (group established to deal with declining enrolment) – RFP developed; however, lead organization to oversee project and funds needed to continue; and
- Recent legislative changes made in provinces, such as Alberta, to implement a blanket Professional Associations Act (which followed British Columbia in 2021).

Finally, I am very excited to be heading to Yellowknife this June for the 79th Board of Directors Meeting and 26th AGM. At this time, the current President (Yuri Kinakin, P.Geo., Director – NWT and Nunavut) will be handing over the title to the President-elect (my colleague Doug Bell, P.Geo., Director – Manitoba).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bev Smith, P.Geo., FGC  
Director-Nova Scotia

# CANADIAN GEOSCIENCE STANDARDS COUNCIL (CGSC)



The CGSC met twice: once at an in person, full day meeting Oct. 22, 2022, attended by registrar David Carter, P.Geo., FGC and second at an online, half day meeting on March 18, 2023, attended by CGSC representative Cliff Stanley, P.Geo., FGC.

Three initiatives are presently underway:

## 1) The Competency-Based On-line Assessment System,

Seven of nine Constituent Associations have committed to implementing the system constructed with assistance by EGBC. Geoscientists Nova Scotia is recruiting volunteers to inaugurate this system in Nova Scotia, although we are having trouble identifying an organizer and sufficient assessors to start up the system. A set of best practices for the implementation of such a system will be shared amongst the Constituent Associations and input from the Engineers Canada regarding best practices using their online system will be sought and shared.

## 2) The Canadian Work-Environment Experience Competencies Project

This involves the identification of competencies that would have to specifically take place in a Canadian environment to be acceptable for registration as a Professional Geoscientist. These competencies have been identified and were approved by the Geoscientists Canada Board in June 2022.

## 3) The Geologist-in-Training booklet Upgrade Project

This sub-committee reviewed the current document and, in addition to necessary updates, identified a number of changes to clarity and format that would improve the document. They also implemented a questionnaire which was sent to a small focus group of students, recent graduates/now MITs, and professionals who recently acquired their credentials to determine how helpful the current booklet was in navigating GIT status and the gaining of qualifying experience. Comments were very positive and constructive, and most of the suggestions had already been identified by the sub-committee. At present, revisions are underway and updated pictures and formatting will be integrated into the document before approval for re-publication.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cliff Stanley, P.Geo., FGC  
Canadian Geoscience Standards Council Representative

# NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Professional practice requires continuous refinement due to technical and social changes and the National Professional Practice Examination (NPPE) reflects these expectations in its content, administration, and delivery. Two professional high-stakes examination psychometricians with a staff of administration assistants at the Association of Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA) work with other examination database and computer-based testing professionals to deliver a secure, robust, and defensible examination. The NPPE is available to be written in English or French and has been adopted by every Canadian Geoscience and Engineering professional regulator as a requirement for professional designation, except for Quebec. Nationally in 2022, the NPPE was taken by 11,401 registrants of which about 5% self-identified under the geoscience stream.



NPPE preparation guidelines have shifted away from recommending certain textbooks to using the NPPE blueprint topics to know what will be covered on their examination. The new, stand-alone, NPPE website ( [www.nppexam.ca](http://www.nppexam.ca) ) was launched in 2022. It provides the current blueprint and many references that elaborate on blueprint topics. The NPPE Examination Committee have also prepared a revised draft blueprint. In 2023 it will be reviewed by professional regulators and a consensus-based final version will determine the need-to-know topics for entry-to-practice professional geoscience and engineering MIT's, GIT's, EIT's and interns that can be tested in the NPPE. Some "good-to-know", philosophical, and legal topics have been reduced or eliminated in the draft blueprint. There has been broader inclusion of environmental and social governance awareness topics.

A review of the Official Register shows that there were 18 APGNS applicants who wrote the NPPE in 2022. Of those, 17 passed on their first attempt, 1 failed and passed on the second attempt.



Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert Stewart P.Geo. FGC  
NPPE Examination Committee  
and  
David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC  
NPPE Advisory Committee

# AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT



It was intended that the Audit Committee, Bridget Adams, P.Geo., FGC, Paul Batson, P.Geo., FGC, and Rick Gagné, P.Geo., FGC (Chair), would review the Association's financial source documents as in past years. This was to be done in conjunction with the submission of all accounting system files to RGH Chartered Professional Accountants for review and completion of the 2022 year-end financial report. That external review has been completed and the report is appended to this report.

The conclusion of the external review, as presented in the Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report states, ... "nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia as at December 31, 2022, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations."

Several unforeseen circumstances merged in the summer and fall of 2021 and continued into 2022, starting with the COVID restrictions and staff issues which led to the change of bookkeeping services and additional staff issues. Banking and investment accounts had been relocated to the Credit Union with some services remaining at the ScotiaBank. The credit card service provider was also changed to SONA, a local company which was recommended by the Credit Union. Each of these events overlapped and delayed the commencement of the year-end 3rd party review, which interfered with the function of the Audit Committee.

The Association's 2022 financial source documents related to expense reports (including office supplies and office expenses), with some apparent gaps, were reviewed. Copies of the contract services invoices and bank fees, account and investment statements were also reviewed, and the bank statements were reconciled. Due to the COVID restrictions, travel related expenses were minimal.

The Audit Committee review was completed remotely and individually. The Audit Committee noted several gaps in the supporting documentation; however, the documentation was consistent with the previous audits that had been completed by the Committee. Those gaps have been identified and are being addressed by the bookkeeping service provider. The Audit Committee review documents will be updated, and they will be conveyed to the Audit Committee who will meet to prepare their final report which will be presented to Council for approval and incorporated into the financial records.

As noted above, all the Association financial information, bookkeeping / accounting system files and bank reconciliations were submitted for an Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement, and that report is appended to the AGM Program. Since this was the first year that RGH Chartered Professional Accountants had been retained for the 3rd party external review, they were required by the regulations applicable to the profession, to not only consider bank records and reconciliations, but also to develop an understanding of the operations, invoicing accounts receivable and collection of accounts payable, policies and practices of the Association, including the minutes from Council and Executive meetings, the structure and history of professional fees and service charges, and entries to the Official Register over a time of several years. The bank records and financial statements were reconciled. The history, development and policies of the Association were provided and as noted above, the review concluded that the finances of the Association are in compliance with Canadian accounting standards for a not-for-profit organization.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Richard Gagné, P.Geo., FGC  
Chair, Audit Committee  
Bridget Adams, P.Geo., FGC  
Paul Batson, P.Geo., FGC, Treasurer  
David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC, Executive Director and Registrar

# NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT



The APGNS Nominating Committee is led by the past-President, with a mandate to provide Council with a list of Members willing to have their name stand for election. As a self-regulated Professional Association, APGNS encourages all of our members to consider becoming involved in helping to guide the affairs of the Association by volunteering to serve on Council.

## **Current Council status (2022-23):**

### **Councillors**

Rick Gagne, P.Geo., FGC; Dan Parker, P.Geo., FGC; Mike Power, P.Geo., and Jim Reeves, P.Geo., are completing their terms on Council at the 2023 AGM. Dan Parker is completing his term as Past-President. Robert Cuthbert is completing his term as President and will serve on the next Council as Past-President.

Wren Bruce, P.Geo., Julie Griffiths, P.Geo., and Peter Oram, P.Geo., have one year remaining on their Council terms.

George Goad, P.Eng., FEC is completing his existing two year term as public representative. The second public representative position is vacant.

## **Council Nominations (2023-24):**

For President 2023-2024: Scott Conrod, P.Geo.

For Vice-President 2023-2024: Mike Power, P.Geo.

For Councillors 2023-2025: Fiona Gallacher, P.Geo.; Mick O'Neill, P.Geo.; and, Cliff Stanley, P.Geo., FGC.

For Public Representative Member 2023-2024: George Goad, P.Eng., FEC.

## **Council Appointments (2023-24):**

Executive Director & Registrar: David C. Carter, P.Geo. FGC.

Treasurer: Paul Batson, P.Geo., FGC.

Secretary: Belinda Culgin, P.Geo., FGC.

Geoscientists Canada Director: Beverley Smith, P.Geo., FGC

Geoscience Standards Council Representative: Cliff Stanley, P.Geo., FGC

On behalf of the Executive, Council, and Association Registrants, we would like to thank all of the current and outgoing Councillors for their contributions and extend a welcome and gratitude to all incoming Councillors for allowing their names to stand for nomination. We also recognize the time and contributions of appointees and representatives.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dan Parker, P.Geo., FGC  
Nominations Committee Chair

# INCOMING VICE-PRESIDENT BIO



## **Mike Power, P. Geo. Incoming Vice-President**

Mike has been an active and enthusiastic member of APGNS since October 2016, a member of Council for a year and is looking forward to becoming a member of the Executive Committee. He's also been leading the Student Committee as Chair and has been the main Student liaison for APGNS for over half a decade recruiting malleable young minds to the geoscience field and will be (as of today) handing off the torch to the more-than-capable Maureen Matthew, P. Geo., to steward the Committee's next chapter. Mike has also offered his advice to the roundtable of the Mining & Energy Committee on important resource projects of the day in the province. He really enjoys contributing to the Association by helping guide students to recognize the important role geoscience holds in Nova Scotia and how members can positively contribute to public safety, development of our stellar natural resources, and preservation of our amazing environment.

Mike fled his hometown for Newfoundland to become a "Come from Away" student of Geology. From his B.Sc. (hons.) in Geology at Memorial University and armed with the triple threat experience in junior mining, offshore oil and gas and academics, Mike started his M.Sc. in uranium exploration at Univ of Ottawa with great timing, just as the Fukushima nuclear reactor disaster occurred. During the downturn that followed this disaster but successful degree completion/thesis defense, Mike gained some experience in the environmental consulting world drilling boreholes at old gas stations, traversing wetlands in old landfills, and scrambling over old mines to locate rare lichens prior to jumping back on the mining bandwagon once commodity prices roared back.

Mike has over 10 years' experience in mineral exploration, environmental consulting and oil and gas and is currently Director, Business Development and Senior Geologist at Mercator Geological Services Limited in Dartmouth. Mike has also very recently been elected President of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia, where he is excited to maximize MANS membership exposure to the energy transition, reducing permitting timelines, and keep people working in a pro-community and employment growth focused mining industry. He will also have opportunities to build the relations between APGNS and MANS.

# NEW COUNCIL BIOS



## **Fiona Gallacher, P.Geo.**

Fiona completed a Bachelor of Science in Earth Sciences at Dalhousie University in 2010. She has been registered as a member (#238) since June 30, 2016.

In 2010, she began working for Shell Canada Ltd in Calgary, Alberta as operations and resource geologist. In 2020, she joined Dillon Consulting Ltd in Halifax, Nova Scotia and has been part of the contaminated sites and risk assessment teams.

Fiona volunteers her time with the association as the editor to the GeoGazette and annual reporting.

## **Mick O'Neil, P.Geo.**

Mick O'Neill, P.Geo., member #300 since February 2021 is the Industry Liaison Geologist for the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. Previously to this position, he was the Core Library Geologist at the Drill Core Library in Stellarton for 10 years, and he continues to be based out of that office. He also managed the Nova Scotia Mineral Incentive Program for four years (now the Mineral Resources Development Fund).

Before coming to the government in 2010, he worked for Atlantic Gold for five years as an exploration geologist, and, prior to that, worked as an exploration geologist with Geovector Management Inc. on projects in Ontario and Newfoundland, and with the CSA Group in Ireland on projects in Ireland and Spain. His undergraduate studies in geology were completed at University College Dublin, and his M.Sc. at Acadia University.



# NEW COUNCIL BIOS



## **Cliff Stanley, Ph.D., P.Geo., FGC**

Cliff Stanley, Ph.D., P.Geo. is a professor of applied geochemistry in the Department of Earth & Environmental Science, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia. His research is directed to improve the numerical treatment of geochemical and petrological data, and is mostly applied to exploration geochemistry and mineral exploration, amongst other topics. He is best known as the author of numerous publications defining and applying molar element ratio analysis to lithogeochemical data, and upgrading the way geoscientists evaluate the quality of their geochemical data (QAQC).

# 2023 APGNS HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP



Paul Batson, P.Geo., FGC

Geoscientists Nova Scotia Executive and Council unanimously approved have the appointment of Paul Batson, P.Geo., FGC as Honorary Life Membership. Paul's eminent service to the geoscience profession as a geoscientist and educator and his outstanding and continuing record of service to the Association is remarkable.

As founding member #009, he was first registered as a Professional Geoscientist in June 2000. He has served on Council and as President (2015-2016). In 2018 he was recognized by the Association with the **Exemplary Service Award**. He continues to serve the Association on Council and on the Executive Committee as the Treasurer. Paul is also a current member of the Admissions Board. In 2016, Paul's service to the Association and the geoscience profession was recognized with the appointment to the Geoscientists Canada Fellowship.

Nominated by:

Robert Cuthbert, P.Geo., President

Supported by:

Scott Conrod, P.Geo., Vice-President

Brent Cox, P.Geo., FGC, Admissions Board Chair

Dan Parker, P.Geo., FGC, Past-President

Theresa Rushton, P.Geo., FGC, Admissions Board Secretary and Past-Chair

Jeff Parks, P.Geo., FGC, Geoscientists Canada Past President and APGNS Past President

David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC, Executive Director and Registrar

Bev Smith, P.Geo., FGC

# 2023 APGNS EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD



Colin Walker, P.Geo.,  
FGC

We are pleased to announce that Colin Walker, P.Geo., FGC is the recipient of the 2023 Exemplary Service Award.

Colin Walker, P.Geo., FGC, member #0140, has been a registered professional geoscientist with APGNS since October 2008. He has served the Association as a Councillor and was part of the original Website Development Committee. He is currently on the Communications Committee as the Website Coordinator. His contributions have been pivotal in the work to refresh of the website.

The Executive and Council consider that it is appropriate that the Association recognize his exemplary record of past, current and on-going contributions to Geoscientists Nova Scotia and to the Geoscience Profession.

In recognition of his contributions to the Geoscientists Nova Scotia and the Geoscience Profession, he was awarded the Fellowship of Geoscientists Canada (FGC) in 2021. He is a Senior Hydrogeologist with CBCL Limited in their Halifax office.

Colin's nomination for this award was brought forward with support from ...

- Robert W. Cuthbert, P.Geo., President;
- Paul Batson, P.Geo., FGC, Treasurer;
- Dan Parker, P.Geo., FGC, Past-President;
- Scott Conrod, P.Geo., Vice-President; and
- David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC, Executive Director and Registrar



"Vortex" by Ted Coldwell will  
be presented to Colin at the  
AGM.

# THE FELLOWSHIP OF GEOSCIENTISTS CANADA (FGC) AWARD



Geoscientists Canada instituted its national fellowship program - The Geoscientists Canada Fellowship - in 2013 to recognize individual professional geoscientists and others who have given noteworthy service to our profession. Since June 2013, over 700 deserving candidates were elected FGC or FGC (Hon) and have been bestowed with their unique lapel pin and certificate at ceremonies across the country.

In honour of the commitment to achieve professional excellence through exceptional contributions to the geoscience profession in Canada. The 2023 FGC award recipient is being announced at this Annual General Meeting - April 28, 2023, and the formal presentation will be made at a later date.

## **The 2022 FGC award recipients is ...**

**Robert W. Cuthbert, P. Geo. FGC**

**Robert has served APGNS as a Councillor and President (2022-2023) of APGNS.**

# Scott Conrod, P.Geo.

## In-coming President



I'm thrilled to be your in-coming APGNS President and continue our journey of accountability, accessibility and visibility to our members and society. I've been an active member of APGNS for over 20 years.

My focus will be to work efficiently and effectively with the Executive and Council to meet the association's objectives set out in our 2023 to 2025 Strategic Plan, engage various committees and action plans, and be a visible presence promoting our amazing association with members, employers, universities, and government.

COVID restricted how the association engaged with the public over the past couple years. Now is the time to pivot to the new norm, with more in-person meetings and community engagement as a renewed focus.

Our association does not function without the generous volunteering of time and commitment from the Executive, Council and Committee members. Change happens when people volunteer, offer constructive perspective, collaborate, focus, and act. We're a small, yet effective association, and we need your help – please consider volunteering.

I extend a huge **Thank You** to all past and present volunteers, for contributing your time and effort to keep our association functioning and relevant.

Thank you, Robert Cuthbert, P.Geo., for your dedication, commitment, and leadership to the association over the past year as our President. Welcome Michael Power, P.Geo., as incoming Vice President - your desire to fulfill the role, commitment, and drive is welcomed. Thank you outgoing Past President, Dan Parker, P.Geo., and Councilors. Your presence, commitment, and vision are truly recognized and appreciated. And welcome incoming Councilors – I invite you to share your constructive perspectives, support our Strategic Plan, and have fun.

Continued Professional Development (CPD) is key to being relevant within your field of expertise as a Professional Geoscientist and active member of APGNS. Remain current, plan for the future, reduce risk, protect our society, volunteer and be proud to be a member of APGNS.

Nova Scotia and the world is changing quickly with respect to energy transition, climate change, mining needs, critical minerals, urbanization, regulations and increasing costs. Professional Geoscientists are involved in all aspects of progress and societal needs across Nova Scotia. My commitment is to make sure our association's individuals and corporate members are involved, recognized, relevant, and supported.

I look forward to the next 12 months as your President, working with the Executive, Council, committees, and our Executive Director, in the best interest of the association and our members.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Conrod".

Scott Conrod, P.Geo., (APGNS Member #0056)  
APGNS President 2023-2024

# GEOSCIENTISTS

## NOVA SCOTIA

*Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia*  
*Annual General Meeting*

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# CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - 1



Maureen Matthew, P.Geo.

## **Few and far between: Hunting for rock avalanches in the fjords of NE Baffin Island**

**Presented by Maureen Matthew, P.Geo.**

### **Abstract**

In 2017, a coastal rock avalanche along a fjord in Western Greenland triggered a tsunami that devastated the village of Nuugatsiaq. Two years earlier, on the Alaskan Coast, a rock avalanche below the Tyndall Glacier triggered a tsunami in Taan Fjord that reached heights over 190 m above sea level. In the last century, similar disasters have been recorded in the fjords of western Norway, some exacting large death tolls. Of the 14 largest tsunamis on record (runup height > 50 m), 10 were triggered by subaerial landslides, typically rock avalanches, into fjords or lakes in high-relief glaciated terrane.

These coastal hazards are well documented in the fjords of Greenland, Norway, and Alaska. However, despite the recognized hazard potential, few rock avalanches and their cascading effects have been reported on Baffin Island where the extensive coastline is deeply incised by fjords and glacier valleys. Are rock avalanches going unnoticed in this isolated region? Or are these events comparatively less common on Baffin Island despite high relief, rapid deglaciation, thawing permafrost, and regions of active seismicity? Here we describe the results of the first systematic inventory of onshore rock avalanche deposits in this area, mapped using high-resolution optical imagery and digital elevation models, and what we learned when we didn't find what we were looking for.

# CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - 2



Cliff Stanley, Ph.D., P.Geo., FGC

## **History of Till Geochemical Exploration at Brazil Lake, Nova Scotia: Insights into the Interpretation of Historical Surveys using the Latest Geochemical, Mineralogical, Pedological, & Glaciological Information**

**Presented by Cliff Stanley, Ph.D., P.Geo., FGC**

### **Abstract**

Till geochemistry has been used numerous times at the Brazil Lake prospect, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia to explore for the spodumene-bearing pegmatites located there. Four surveys have been undertaken: Palma et al. (1982), MacDonald et al. (1992), Lundrigan (2008), and Wightman (2017). Unfortunately, only one of these surveys (Lundrigan 2008) involved any orientation work, causing most results to suffer from sub-optimal design, and resulting in no new discoveries.

Recent work over the last two years by the author has exploited LIDAR imagery to better understand the relevant surface materials. Furthermore, the mechanical digging, inspection, and sampling of almost 250 pits to ~2.5 m depth has provided an understanding of the glacial and soil-forming processes that took place there. Almost half of these pits were part of an orientation survey of a control area down-ice from the known pegmatites, so this survey, coupled with the orientation work undertaken by Lundrigan (2002), has provided an important understanding of the glacial stratigraphy and how it impacts till exploration, as well as the controls on soil development in the Brazil Lake area.

Consequently, sufficient information is now available to properly interpret the historical till geochemistry surveys in the Brazil Lake area. Orientation information derived from this latest survey has also provided important constraints on how to successfully explore for Li-bearing pegmatites using till geochemistry in areas of southwest Nova Scotia that are covered by thick piles of glacial till.