

Geoscience Committee

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As the current Chair of the Geoscience Committee I am going to take this opportunity to link some key events of the past year with the history of geoscience registration in Manitoba. At the beginning of this decade provincial regulators across the country were working with few if any nationally agreed upon guidelines to support the process of registering a geoscientist. This state of affairs lay at the heart of a lot of fears and concerns that geoscientists had at the time concerning the licensing process including interprovincial mobility issues. If we take a moment to look back at where we have come from we can state for the record that our concerns were taken very seriously by regulators across the country. It might even be possible to say that at this time the key concerns of the early part of the decade regarding registration and mobility have largely been dealt with in a satisfactory manner. I will begin with two items from recent months that promise to have significant impact on prospective new geoscience registrants including those individuals who are still completing their degrees.

The Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists (CCPG) is a national council whose members are the self-governing professional associations or constituent associations that regulate the profession of geoscience in each of the jurisdictions in Canada. It is important to note that the CCPG does not license individual geoscientists. Those seeking registration as either a "P. Geo." or as a member in training (GIT) must become licensed with the appropriate constituent association (regulator) in each of the provinces or territories in which they intend to practice. On July 4, 2008 the CCPG announced on their web site the recent unanimous decision of its Board of Directors to accept the proposed revisions to the geoscience knowledge and experience requirements for professional registration in Canada.

The new revisions are set out in the CCPG document entitled "*Geoscience Knowledge and Experience Requirements for Professional Registration in Canada*" that replaces the previous document set out for that purpose entitled "Recommended Minimum Requirements of Geoscience Knowledge and

Work Experience for Professional Practice”, which had been in use since 2000. I encourage all of you to visit the CCPG website (www.CCPG.ca) and become familiar with this document.

Work on these revisions has been the focus of intense activity over the past 3 years at the Canadian Geoscience Standards Board (CGSB), a standing committee of CCPG which is made up of representatives from each of the 10 constituent associations of CCPG that regulate the practice of professional geoscience in each of the 11 provinces and territories in Canada where licensure applies. In recent years, Jim Teller, P. Geo. has been our representative on the CGSB. The original requirements document, which was released in 2000, was developed in the late 1990s, at a time when regulation of the geoscience profession was still evolving across Canada. I can attest to how much effort would have gone into this revised document as I served as the CGSB Chair during the years that the original document was produced in the late 90's and first part of this decade. The replacement document not only updates the original document, and in my opinion, it much improves upon it.

While the contents of the document has been approved by the CCPG and recommended for use by the provincial regulators, it is not legally binding upon any individual regulator. Thus, its adoption at the May 8, 2008 APEGM Council meeting is that much greater of a testimony to the work of all those on the CGSB. The CCPG National Geoscience Knowledge Requirements document was adopted as the minimum registration criteria for the assessment of geoscience applications in Manitoba after being moved by Councillor Brenda Bilton, P. Geo., and seconded by Councillor Raymond Reichelt, P. Geo., and I might add passed by a governing Council presided over by President Tim Corkery, P. Geo.

The geoscience knowledge requirement is based on a typical Canadian university (4-year) Bachelor of Science (or equivalent) degree in Geoscience. The document recognizes that geoscience education in Canada currently falls into three distinct streams – Geology, Environmental Geoscience and Geophysics – and as such, three separate syllabi were developed and presented in the document. This time Manitoba (APEGM) has adopted all three syllabi which is an important new development for geoscientists and their employers in Manitoba.

The CCPG has mandated that the CCPG will update the Knowledge Requirements once every five years. I would like to issue a challenge to the membership at this time for someone to put their name forward to work on the next revision of the document. It can be demanding work, and with no monetary compensation, but it is important work that must be done in order to keep our profession current. Moreover, from a personal experience, I can attest that it is well worth the effort.