

## Principles for development of a regulatory regime for granting geoscience technologists independent practice rights

### Foundation:

- Public safety and the public interest are paramount considerations when government bodies address decisions regarding professions.
- Geoscience must be regulated.
- Geoscience professionals must be licensed.
- Geoscience is a single practice area that includes geoscience technology. There are related activities that do not fall within the definition of the practice of professional geoscience<sup>1</sup> and that do not require professional regulatory oversight.
- Geoscience technologists are respected and valued members of any project team.

### Where:

- Academic and experience requirements for professional geoscientists are different and more extensive than the academic and experience requirements for geoscience technologists.
- Education and training in first principles means that professional geoscientists are qualified to conduct work that geoscience technologists may not be qualified to conduct.
- Utilizing the minimum number of professional regulators to regulate professional geoscience activities preserves the unity of geoscience regulation and avoids confusion as well as inconsistent and potentially conflicting regulatory standards that could be caused by the introduction of an additional regulator.

**Therefore**, the development of a regulatory regime for granting geoscience technologists independent practice rights must incorporate the three principles stated below.

### Principles

1. All work that falls within the definition of the practice of professional geoscience<sup>1</sup> should be regulated by a single government-designated regulator whose mandate includes regulating the practice of professional geoscience in the public interest.
2. Individuals who have acquired the necessary competencies by virtue of their academic training and professional experience, who can be held accountable for their work, and who have met all of the licensing requirements set by the provincial/territorial regulators can be authorized to practice professional geoscience either within a limited scope of practice or as a fully licensed P.Ge.
3. Scopes of practice (for the purpose of limited scope of practice licences) within the broad range of geoscience activities must be defined by professional geoscience regulators and must be understandable and enforceable.

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<sup>1</sup> Geoscientists Canada's general model definition of the practice of professional geoscience is:

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

- a) Investigations, interpretations, evaluations, consultations or management aimed at discovery or development of metallic or non-metallic minerals, rocks, nuclear or fossil fuels, precious stones and water resources;
- b) Investigations, interpretations, evaluations, consultations, or management relating to geoscientific properties, conditions or processes that may affect the well-being of the general public, including those pertaining to preservation of the natural environment.