

Position Statement on the Licensing of Geoscience Practitioners

It is the position of Geoscientists Canada that in the interest of protecting the public and the environment that all geoscience practitioners, as defined in the Acts of geoscience regulators across Canada, be licensed professional geoscientists. This statement applies to geoscience practice in the public or private sectors, academia, or any other geoscience practice areas.

Protections offered by the regulation of the geoscience profession enhances public health, safety, welfare, and the protection of the environment, for the benefit of all Canadians. Assigning unique and understandable titles and definitions to professional geoscientists and geoscience activity through licensure helps reduce confusion for the public. Where geoscience work is being undertaken in Canada, the work must be done by a professional geoscientist licensed in the province or territory where the work is being performed.

Geoscience regulators set high professional and ethical standards, establish codes of conduct, and administer regulatory processes and standards of practice to ensure the protection of the public. The regulators offer outreach and mentoring; require and support continuing professional development; implement national labour mobility agreements; and, facilitate foreign qualification recognition. Licensed professional geoscientists are held publicly and legally accountable for their work by the provincial and territorial regulators. Accountability through professional licensure helps to keep Canadians safe by ensuring that geoscientists practice in a competent and ethical manner.