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**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

**Professional Geoscientists obtain funding to facilitate harmonization of admissions for registration and licensure in Canada of internationally-trained geoscientists.**

Geoscientists Canada (Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists), is pleased to announce \$296,000 in support funding from the Government of Canada. This funding will contribute to work to be undertaken over the next 24 months by Geoscientists Canada, in collaboration with its constituent associations – the 10 regulatory bodies that govern geoscience practice - to investigate and analyze admissions assessments processes across Canada and to seek ways to facilitate greater harmonization.

The Government of Canada funding is provided by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada as part of its Foreign Credential Recognition Program.

“Our government is committed to helping newcomers succeed in Canada,” said the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development. “Through Canada’s Economic Action Plan, our government is taking action to improve foreign credential recognition so that newcomers can maximize their talents. We are proud to support Geoscientists Canada’s project to help foreign-trained professionals join the workforce, because attracting the best international talent is vital to Canada’s long-term economic success.”

The basic objective of the project is to develop a collective understanding of how credentials are assessed when Internationally-Trained Geoscientists (“ITGs”) are being considered for admission at any of the 10 regulatory bodies across Canada that regulate geoscientists, and to explore the development of similar assessment policies and practices.

Termed the “ITG project”, the project will comprise 4 staged phases:

1. To map and analyze how the credentials of ITG applicants are currently assessed by the 10 regulatory bodies
2. To facilitate debate and consensus building among the regulatory bodies towards developing similar policies and assessment tools
3. To undertake due diligence on a select number of geoscience regulatory bodies in other countries with the view to assessing the possibilities for entering Mutual Recognition Agreements between the regulatory bodies in Canada (collectively) and regulatory bodies in other countries.
4. To seek to establish a set of similar policies and assessment tools, agreed to among all the regulatory bodies, for the consideration of applications for professional registration from Internationally-Trained Geoscientists

Speaking about the announcement, CCPG President, Gary Vivian, P.Geol. said: “This project is very timely indeed coming as it does so soon after the recent revisions to Canada’s Agreement on Internal Trade. It will allow our member provincial bodies to increase understanding, consensus building, and collaboration on this important matter. Potentially, this will provide some solutions that will not only reduce barriers to entry into our profession by well-trained

international geoscientists and their subsequent inter-provincial mobility, but more importantly it will maintain high entry standards for the profession and increase overall protection of the Canadian public”

Mr. Vivian went on to say “I am also delighted to announce that Geoscientists Canada has recently engaged Mr. Keith Johnson, MBA, of Toronto, as manager, part-time, for this ITG project. In addition to his other recent assignments to develop assessment tools for different regulated professions in Canada, Mr. Johnson served as the manager for the recently-completed HRSDC funded project, undertaken by the Canadian Centre for International Credentials, which resulted in the publication of the *Pan-Canadian Quality Standards in International Credentials Evaluation*.”

Geoscientists Canada is the national organization of the 10 provincial and territorial licensing bodies/ordre that regulate the practice of geoscience in Canada.

The mission of Geoscientists Canada is to develop consistent high standards for licensure and practice of geoscience, to facilitate national and international professional mobility, and to promote recognition of Canadian geoscientists.

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