

# Position Statement on Licensing Requirements for Geoscientist Positions in the Federal Public Service

## **I. General Statement**

Geoscience is a regulated profession in all provinces and territories with the exception of the Yukon Territory and Prince Edward Island<sup>1</sup>. Professional geoscience regulators have a crucial role in safeguarding public safety by verifying registrant qualifications and education, investigating complaints and if necessary implementing discipline measures.

To ensure that geoscientific work is conducted with the highest standards of professionalism and ethics, it is essential that individuals performing such work within the federal public service are licensed by the relevant provincial or territorial geoscience regulator. Licensing ensures that only qualified individuals collect, process and interpret geoscientific information, thereby protecting the public and the environment from potential risks associated with unqualified practice.

Geoscientists Canada, the national organization representing the profession, emphasizes the importance of licensure for all employees working in federal positions conducting geoscience work as defined in the applicable provincial and territorial Acts<sup>2</sup>. This requirement aligns with provincial and territorial legislation, which mandates that only licensed professionals can practice geoscience. By adhering to these regulations, the federal government can maintain public trust and uphold the integrity of the geoscience profession.

## **II. The Role of Professional Geoscientists in Public Protection**

Professional Geoscientists contribute significantly to areas related to natural resource management, environmental protection, and public safety. Their expertise is vital in assessing geological hazards, managing natural resources sustainably, and mitigating the impacts of contaminated sites and climate change. Professional Geoscientists provide critical insights that support evidence-based decision-making. Their involvement ensures that geological considerations are adequately addressed, leading to more resilient and sustainable outcomes. As such, it is imperative that geoscientists involved in decisions affecting the public and the

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<sup>1</sup> [https://geoscientistscanada.ca/practice\\_in\\_canada.php](https://geoscientistscanada.ca/practice_in_canada.php)

<sup>2</sup> <https://geoscientistscanada.ca/about.php#3>

environment are licensed professionals who adhere to the highest standards of practice and ethics and are held accountable for their work.

### III. Recommendations to the Federal Government

1. **Standardize Licensing Requirements:** The federal government should adhere to the Provincial and Territorial requirements as reflected in the National Occupational Standards that recognizes the mandatory role of licensure in geoscience<sup>3</sup>. Licensure should be a mandatory condition of employment for positions that involve geoscientific work.
2. **Collaborate with Geoscientists Canada:** Engage in ongoing collaboration with Geoscientists Canada to establish clear and consistent criteria for geoscientist positions in the public service. This collaboration will help ensure that job postings and descriptions accurately reflect the qualifications, licensure requirements and ethical standards necessary for professional practice within each Province/Territory.
3. **Promote Continuous Professional Development:** Support initiatives that promote continuous professional development for geoscientists in the federal public service. This will help maintain high standards of practice and ensure that geoscientists remain current with advancements in the field.

### IV. Closure

In conclusion, the licensure of geoscientists within the federal public service is essential for maintaining high standards of practice, protecting public safety, and environmental protection. Geoscientists Canada calls on the federal government to implement standardized licensure requirements for all geoscientist positions and to collaborate with the profession to uphold the integrity and accountability of geoscientific work. By doing so, the federal government can demonstrate its commitment to public safety, environmental stewardship, and the responsible management of Canada's natural resources.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://noc.esdc.gc.ca/Structure/NOCProfile?GocTemplateCulture=en-CA&code=21102&version=2021.0>