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For Immediate Release

## **Ireland and Canada Enhance International Mobility for Professional Geoscientists.**

Vancouver — Geoscientists Canada is pleased to announce the recent signing of a Mutual Recognition Agreement with The Institute of Geologists of Ireland, which took place in Dublin, Ireland on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Agreement will enhance the international mobility of professional geoscientists by facilitating licensed geoscientists in one country to be licensed in the other country, with greater ease. The Agreement allows Canada's professional geoscientist designation ("P.Geo") be seen as equivalent to Ireland's, similarly named, professional geoscientist designation ("PGeo"), and vice versa. It will also help streamline professional registration of Irish geoscientists wishing to become licensed in Canadian jurisdictions and Canadian geoscientists wishing to become registered with the Institute of Geologists of Ireland.

The President of Geoscientists Canada, Timothy Corkery, P.Geo, stated "We are delighted to have been able to facilitate this important first international Mutual Recognition Agreement for the Canadian profession of geoscience and to be entering it with the Institute of Geologists of Ireland. This first Agreement, for us, is modeled very closely on a similar agreement signed for the engineering profession between Ireland and Canada in 2009. This parallelism makes particular sense in a Canadian context, given that many of Geoscientists Canada's constituent associations regulate both geoscientists and engineers together as part of the same professional body".

The Institute of Geologist of Ireland has had a mutual recognition agreement with the UK's Geological Society of London, which has responsibility for the Chartered Geologist ("CGeol") designation, since 2001. The IGI also retains MRAs with equivalent professional geoscientific bodies in Australia (AusIMM), United States (AIPG) and South Africa (SAPNSC). The Institute is an active member association of the European Federation of Geologists and is the designated national licensing authority for Ireland, for the European Geologist designation ("EurGeol").

Mr. Corkery went on to say "This new Agreement is the end result of much hard work that was initiated some years ago as part of Geoscientists Canada's Internationally-Trained Geoscientists Project, concluded in 2012, which was funded through the Government of Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition Program. Among its objectives, this project supported due diligence activities pursuant to possible international mutual recognition agreements with entities governing geoscience practice in several other countries. Our thanks go to the many geoscientist volunteers and staff of our constituent associations in Canada who worked on this initiative, and also to our colleagues in Ireland for their reciprocal contributions and effort, leading to this agreement"

Commenting about the Agreement, The President of the Institute of Geologists of Ireland, Dr Deirdre Lewis, PGeo, said "This MRA is a very important achievement for the Institute and for geoscience on both sides of the Atlantic, given the international mobility of many professional



geologists and the increasing requirement for designated “competent” or “qualified persons” in reporting to statutory authorities and stock exchanges around the world. We are delighted that we have reached this juncture with our colleagues in Geoscientists Canada”.

The Agreement, which was approved by the Board of the Institute of Geologist of Ireland in December 2012, and by the Board of Directors of Geoscientists Canada in March 2013, will take effect in Canada as it becomes ratified by Geoscientists Canada’s constituent associations. The Agreement will become effective immediately in Ireland.

Geoscientists Canada is the national organization of the 10 provincial and territorial associations that regulate the practice of geoscience in Canada. The Geoscience profession, which is made up of many specialized practice disciplines, currently comprises over 13,000 Professionals Geoscientists and Geoscientists-in-Training across 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.

Geoscientists Canada is the business name of the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists.

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