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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Professional Geoscientists approve collective framework for the development of professional practice guidelines.

Geoscientists Canada is pleased to announce the recent unanimous decision of its Board of Directors to approve a new national framework on geoscience professional practice guidelines and to recommend it for use by its member associations across Canada.

The new framework is set out in the Geoscientists Canada document entitled: "*Framework for the Development of Geoscience Professional Practice Guidelines*", a copy of which can be viewed on the Geoscientists Canada website www.ccpq.ca

Work on this framework has been the focus of intense activity over the past 18 months as part of a project which received funding assistance from the Government of Canada's Labour Mobility Program, administered by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. All 10 of the regulatory bodies - the professional associations that comprise the membership in Geoscientists Canada - were engaged in concluding the framework, while 7 of the member associations were directly involved in its development, through active participation on the project's national steering committee.

The framework reviews the purpose of practice guidelines and the challenges associated with both developing and maintaining such documents. It then sets out collectively-agreed to principles concerning: 1) identifying the need for guidelines for different types of practice; 2) the process and methodology that should be followed in preparing guidelines and 3) the structure and components of a typical practice guideline.

Practice guidelines need to be specific to a particular province or territory, in Canada, because of the jurisdictional nature of geoscience licensure. The framework secures this need for difference arising from differing regulatory requirements. At the same time, it recognizes that all guidelines should reflect the same reliance on the use of geoscientific principles and the scientific method, and should carry similar expectations around independent professional judgment on which sound geoscience practice is based - all of which apply equally regardless of jurisdiction.

Speaking about the announcement, Geoscientists Canada President, James Moors, P.Ge. said: "Having such a framework in place is an important achievement for the profession and we owe a special debt of gratitude to our member associations, the regulatory bodies, for contributing so much effort to achieve this. Guidelines are important because they set out a common level of expectation, not just for practitioners, but also for the client, the public, the profession, the government and other entities".

Mr. Moors added: "Having guidelines that over time will be consistent in structure across Canada is also important for those who are licensed and practice geoscience in multiple jurisdictions, or who are transferring to one province or territory from another. It can only lead to improved practice standards and greater overall protection of the public"

The Geoscience profession is made up of many specialized practice disciplines, which currently comprises over 10,000 licensed professionals and Geoscientists-in-Training across Canada.

Geoscientists Canada, which is the business name of the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists, 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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