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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Geoscientists Canada announces Framework for Assessment in the Licensing of Professional Geoscientists in Canada

Geoscientists Canada is pleased to announce the completion of a national framework on consideration of applicants for professional registration across Canada. The new framework is set out in a document entitled: *A “Framework for Assessment in the Licensing of Professional Geoscientists in Canada”* (the “Framework”). A copy can be found on the Geoscientists Canada website at www.ccpq.ca

This document represents a key outcome of Geoscientists Canada’s Internationally-Trained Geoscientists initiative. This 27 month project, begun in January 2010, has been made possible through funding from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada’s Foreign Credential Recognition Program.

The new Framework was accepted by the Geoscientists Canada Board of Directors in November, 2011 and has been recommended for use by all its Constituent Associations – the 10 regulatory bodies which license geoscience practitioners across Canada. The result of over 24 months of extensive research and collaboration, development of the Framework was overseen by a national steering committee made up of appointees from among the regulatory bodies. Much of the detailed work was undertaken by the Canadian Geoscience Standards Board and admissions officials from across Canada, working in collaboration with project consultants.

The document is founded on a comprehensive survey conducted in 2010, completed by representatives from all 10 regulatory bodies detailing current geoscientist assessment and admissions practices. This was followed by analysis and debate at a national level, including consideration of credential assessment practices used by other regulated professions in Canada and by the regulated geoscience profession in other countries. Special attention was paid to recent key developments at both the national and international level, including: the Agreement on Internal Trade, the Foreign Credential Referral Office, provincial “Fairness” legislation, the European Federation of Geologists’ Euro-Ages project, the Bologna Process and the Lisbon Convention.

Speaking about the Framework, the President of Geoscientists Canada, Dr Greg Finn, P.GeO, said, “ We are delighted be have been able to facilitate this work and assist our constituent



associations in achieving this Framework – a key objective of this funded project. As a “framework”, of course, it is neither prescriptive, nor legally binding. Instead it is a series of broad, visionary and collectively agreed-to principles that the profession and admissions officials, working together will undertake to bring into use across the profession over the coming years. The Framework can be considered a companion to Geoscientists Canada’s *Geoscience Knowledge and Experience Requirements for Professional Registration in Canada* - the “GKE” - document published in May, 2008, and recently reprinted in March, 2012. Whereas the GKE outlines expectations on admissions requirements to become a professional geoscientist in Canada, the Framework describes the processes used to determine that admissions requirements have been satisfied.”

Dr Finn went on to say, “Having such a Framework to compliment the GKE will help ensure high standards of admissions and greater protection of the public, while at the same time facilitating both inter-provincial and international mobility of professional geoscientists.”

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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