

Geoscience

Types of Licensure

Professional Geoscientist (P.Geo.)

- Meets academic and experience requirements
- Licensed to practise geoscience at a professional level
- Assumes professional responsibility for work

Inter-Association Mobility Geoscientists

- Currently a GIT or P.Geo. in another Canadian Association/Ordre who wishes to apply for GIT or P.Geo. membership with APEGBC

Geoscientist-in-Training (GIT)

- Meets academic requirements
- Does geoscience work under the supervision of a P.Geo. and is gaining necessary experience to reach a professional level
- Allowed to use “geoscientist” in job position title combined with GIT designation when being directly supervised by a licensed P.Geo.

Provisional Licensee

- Meets academic requirements
- More than 4 years work experience outside of Canada and is working to gain required year of geoscience work in a Canadian environment or equivalent
- Does geoscience work under the supervision of a P.Geo.
- Allowed to use “geoscientist” in job position title combined with GIT designation when being directly supervised by a licensed P.Geo.

Non-Resident Licensee (P.Geo.)

- Meets academic and experience requirements
- Licensed to practise geoscience at a professional level
- Assumes professional responsibility for work
- Does not have Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status

Limited Licensee (Geo.L.)

- Typically has academic qualifications other than a university geoscience degree
- Has gained several years of experience in a defined scope of geoscience work and takes professional responsibility for that work

Ancillary Benefits of Licensure

Registration as a professional geoscientist with APEGBC gives members an exclusive title that allows them to independently practise professional geoscience in British Columbia. The professional designation, licence, certificate and professional stamp and seal all signify to peers and the public that the member has demonstrated the level of knowledge, experience, professional judgment and character necessary to earn the privilege and obligation of licensed, independent practice.

As a self-regulatory body, APEGBC derives its strength from its members and licensees. They provide the direction and support needed to maintain the high standards of entry and practice required to protect the public interest, which in turn elicits public respect and trust in each member or licensee’s professional designation and judgment.

APEGBC also offers its members and licensees a wide range of benefits such as:

- Secondary professional liability insurance coverage;
- Opportunities for, and discounts on, professional and personal development through participation in seminars and courses;
- Recognition of outstanding service and practice through the President’s Awards;
- Scholarships for members and their children;
- APEGBC’s magazine, *Innovation*, and e-newsletter, *Connections*;
- Member-only Affinity Programs (business, home and life insurance, RRSPs, fuel discounts, cellular services and more);
- Eligibility for the Benevolent Fund that assists members in financial distress;
- Advice and assistance through the Mentoring Program; and
- Employment resources for both employers and job seekers.

For More Information

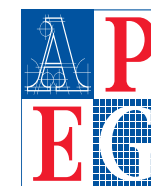
To apply for licensure or to learn more about APEGBC, visit:
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Geoscience Practice in BC: What You Need to Know



Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of BC

APEGBC and the Engineers and Geoscientists Act

In BC, the practices of professional geoscience and professional engineering are regulated by the provincial government through the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act* (“Act”). The *Act* delegates the regulation of those professions to the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (APEGBC).

APEGBC’s role is to protect the public and the environment by:

- Establishing and maintaining standards of practice for professional geoscience and professional engineering in BC; and
- Licensing and regulating individuals who practise professional geoscience and professional engineering in BC.

Is registration/licensure mandatory?

- In a word, yes. The *Act* requires that all individuals who practise geoscience or engineering at a professional level in BC be registered or licensed with APEGBC.

What is “professional geoscience?”

According to the *Act* the “**practice of professional geoscience**” means:

“reporting, advising, acquiring, processing, evaluating, interpreting, surveying, sampling or examining related to any activity that:

a) Is directed towards the discovery or development of oil, natural gas, coal, metallic or non-metallic minerals, precious stones, other natural resources or water, or the investigation of surface or sub-surface geologic conditions, and;

b) Requires that professional application of the principles of geology, geophysics or geochemistry.”

The following are examples of job titles considered to represent to the public that an individual is providing professional geosciences services:

- Earth Scientist
- Environmental Geoscientist
- Mineral Exploration Geologist
- Geochemist
- Geologist
- Engineering Geologist
- Geomorphologist
- Geophysicist
- Geoscientist
- Hydrogeologist
- Paleontologist
- Petroleum Geoscientist
- Quaternary Geologist
- Volcanologist

Can one do geoscience work and not be registered?

The *Act* permits work that would otherwise qualify as the practice of professional geoscience to be done by non-registered persons, provided that they are working under the direct supervision of a professional geoscientist who takes responsibility for the control and conduct of the work as if that work were his/her own.

Is it unlawful to practise geoscience without being licensed?

Yes. Unlicensed individuals are prohibited by the *Act* from practising professional geoscience in the province of British Columbia and from acting in a manner that leads any person to believe that the individual is authorized to act as a professional geoscientist.

What are the consequences of practising professional geoscience without being registered or licensed with APEGBC?

The provincial government delegates enforcement of the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act* to APEGBC.

APEGBC has established an enforcement procedure to take action against individuals who are not registered or licensed. Additionally, companies that do not employ registered members or licensees and provide or offer to provide professional geoscience services, or use a restricted title, may also be subject to enforcement action.

Under the *Act*, legal action may be taken against an unregistered or unlicensed person who practises professional geoscience, and a court injunction may be issued to stop the unlawful practice. The person is also liable for damages of up to \$10,000 (the provincial government is considering increasing that amount to \$50,000).

Furthermore, unless a person is a member of APEGBC, they are not entitled to recover any fee or remuneration in any court of law in BC for any work done, or service rendered, that falls within the definition of the “practice of professional geoscience.”



Apart from the Engineers and Geoscientist Act, does any other legislation restrict geoscience activities to licensed professional geoscientists?

Yes. Demand-side legislation such as National Instrument 43-101, Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects, and National Instrument 51-101, Standards of Disclosure for Oil and Gas Activities, require that all work be based on advice by a “qualified person.” For Projects and Activities in BC, professional registration with APEGBC is required as part of the criteria to be recognized as a “qualified person.” A number of other pieces of demand-side legislation, including the *Oil and Gas Commission Act*, have similar requirements.

Requirements for Registration or Licensure as a Professional Geoscientist (P.Geo.)

Completion of the following:

- Knowledge requirements as outlined in the APEGBC syllabi for the disciplines of environmental geoscience, geochemistry, geophysics, or geology;
- 4 years of satisfactory professionally supervised geoscience experience;
- The Law and Ethics Seminar;
- The Professional Practice Examination;
- Demonstration of English language competence; and
- Demonstration of good character and repute.

Required application documentation:

- A completed application form;
- A certified copy of proof of Canadian citizenship or Permanent Resident status;
- Work experience details;
- A completed Practice Declaration Form;
- A completed Self-Assessment Checklist;
- Transcripts and course descriptions; and
- Completed reference forms from professional referees who have detailed knowledge of the applicant’s work experience.



Information on APEGBC’s Enforcement Procedure is available online at www.appeg.bc.ca/enforcement/enforcement-procedure.html