

Types of Membership

Professional Geoscientist (P.Geo.)

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

Geoscientist-in-Training (G.I.T.)

- Meets academic requirements
- Practices geoscience under supervision of a P.Geo. and is gaining necessary experience to reach professional level
- Allowed to use “geoscientist” in title when being supervised by a licensed P.Geo.

Provisional Member

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

Non-Resident Licensee

- Meets academic and experience requirements
- Licensed to practice geoscience at a professional level
- Assumes professional responsibility for work
- Does not hold Canadian citizenship or permanent residency

Limited Licensee

- 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

Benefits of Registration as an APEGBC Member

Registration as a professional geoscientist with APEGBC gives members an exclusive title that entitles them to the independent practice of professional geoscience in British Columbia. The professional designation, license, 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-regulating profession, APEGBC derives its strength from its membership. APEGBC's members 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's professional designation and judgment.

APEGBC's strength of membership also allows it to offer a wide range of member 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 become a registered Professional Geoscientist, to receive an application package or to learn more about APEGBC, visit:

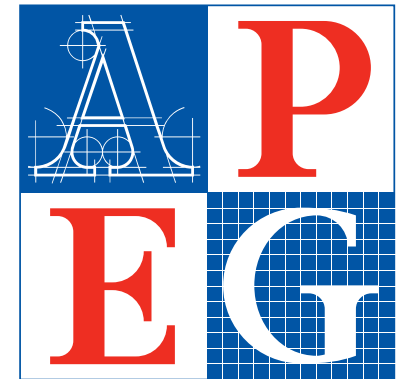
www.apeg.bc.ca

APEGBC
200 – 4010 Regent Street
Burnaby, BC V5C 6N2

T: 604-430-8035
F: 604-430-8085
Toll-Free: 1-888-430-8035
register@apeg.bc.ca

Professional Geoscience in BC:

What You Need To Know



Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of BC

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**The Association of
Professional
Engineers and
Geoscientists
of British Columbia**

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* (the *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 practice professional geoscience and professional engineering in BC.

Is Registration/Licensure Mandatory?

In a word, *yes*. The *Act* requires that all individuals who practice 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 geological conditions, and
- b) requires the 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 geoscience services:

- Earth Scientist
- Environmental Geologist
- Environmental Geoscientist
- Exploration Geoscientist
- Geochemist
- 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.

Is it unlawful to practice geoscience without being licensed?

Yes. Unlicensed individuals are prohibited by the *Act* from practicing 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 practicing 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 members 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.”

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

Apart from the *Engineers and Geoscientists 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 disclosure be based on advice by a “qualified person.” Professional members of APEGBC are recognized as “qualified persons.” 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.Ge.)

Completion of the following:

- The knowledge requirements as outlined in the APEGBC geoscience syllabi for the disciplines of environmental geoscience, geochemistry or geophysics;
- 4 years of satisfactory professionally-supervised geoscience experience;
- The Law and Ethics Seminar;
- The Professional Practice Examination; 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 Demographic Information 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.