



“FOR ME WORKING IN THE MINERAL EXPLORATION BUSINESS, LICENSURE AND ACCEPTANCE AS A PROFESSIONAL IS ESSENTIAL. THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS I ACCEPT AS A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL, PROVIDES PROTECTION TO THE PUBLIC AND ASSURES MY COLLEAGUES THAT I AM QUALIFIED TO PRACTICE AND THAT I WOULD NOT PRACTICE IN A GEOSCIENCE FIELD OUTSIDE OF MY FIELD OF EXPERTISE. THE REGISTRATION PROCESS IS STRAIGHT FORWARD AND CONTAINS PROVISIONS FOR MOBILITY ACROSS CANADA AND SHOULD NOT BE AVOIDED. I ENCOURAGE ALL GEOSCIENTISTS TO REGISTER AND BE PART OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT BOTH PROTECTS THE PUBLIC’S INTERESTES AND PROMOTES THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROFESSION.”

— Robert Wheeler, P. Geo.
Senior Geologist
Vale Newfoundland and Labrador Limited

THE PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Professionalism = Competence + Integrity

A standard of professionalism has been set by the provincial and territorial regulatory bodies to assure the public that practitioners are competent and must adhere to high expectations of practice, and are individually accountable.

For individuals who become Professional Geoscientists, it is a note of status and pride to display that recognition, because it establishes them as a credible and trustworthy service provider.

The decision not to obtain a license can affect a person because it is the law and could result in fines or action if that person is found to be practicing geoscience without a license. It can restrict career development as most geoscience job descriptions or contract specifications now include licensure as a pre-requisite.



Professional Excellence



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competence + integrity
compétence + intégrité

TURNING PROFESSIONAL

Geoscience is now a regulated profession everywhere in Canada except P.E.I. and the Yukon and registration is mandatory for anyone practicing geoscience as defined by the Acts in each province and territory.

Licensure is required for anyone performing any activity that falls within the definition of professional geoscience. This applies to the investigation of surface or sub-surface geologic conditions and to work in the discovery, management and development of the Earth's resources, including hydrocarbons and water.

ACADEMIC MATTERS

The general requirements to become a P.Geo are a four-year degree B.Sc. in geoscience and at least 48 months geoscience practice experience under the supervision of a Professional Geoscientist. A minimum of 36 months must be obtained after completing your B.Sc. and time spent completing thesis-based M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees can be counted as practice experience. You must also sit and pass a professional practice and ethics exam. While very similar, each province and territory has their own specific requirements.

If an applicant has acceptable academic education in geoscience and all the necessary geoscience experience, it may take as little as four months from application to acceptance.

If an applicant has an academic background that is not completely acceptable for registration but has sufficient, quality work experience in geoscience that demonstrates thorough knowledge of defined geoscience practices, then most regulatory bodies have mechanisms in place that allow for knowledge gained through experience to count for academic requirements. The key concern is that an applicant is competent to practice independently at a professional level.

Recent graduates should apply as a Geoscientist in Training (GIT), which allows you to track your initial work experience under the supervision of licensed Professional Geoscientists while progressing toward your own license.

YOUR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

All individuals practicing professional geoscience as defined by each provincial and territorial jurisdiction must be registered and licensed as a Professional Geoscientist (P.Geo). In Alberta, the designations are Professional Geologist (P.Geol) and Professional Geophysicist (P.Geoph); in Quebec, it is géoscientifique professionnels (géo).

The definition of geoscience generally covers all activity that uses the principles of geoscience (including geology, geophysics, environmental science and geochemistry) and that impacts the public—including work leading toward the discovery and development of natural resources, or investigations of geologic conditions.

Practicing geoscientists must register in each jurisdiction in which they work, where licensing is required.

Increasingly, new government reporting requirements and corporate hiring policies require a P.Geo license.

It is the duty of regulators to protect the public by actively enforcing against non-registered individuals who work or portray themselves as professional geoscientists.

Licensure is not in place to serve geoscientists, it's to protect the public interest and the natural environment.

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