



PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS ONTARIO

MINUTES OF THE 23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS of Professional Geoscientists Ontario, held in person at the Toronto Marriott City Centre and via Zoom videoconference on Friday, June 6, 2025, commencing at 1:30 p.m. (ET)

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Robert Hearst, President of Professional Geoscientists Ontario, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and presided as Chair. A warm welcome was extended to the attendees including PGO registrants, Geoscientists-in-Training, students, other members of the geoscience community, and guests.

- (a) *Chair's Opening Remarks* – The Chair highlighted that PGO is celebrating its 25th anniversary as an organization this year, and acknowledged the work of staff and volunteers.
- (b) *Introductions* – The Chair introduced members of the community actively participating in the AGM.
- (c) *Land Acknowledgement* – Melanie Siewert provided an Indigenous land acknowledgement, pausing for a moment of self-reflection.
- (d) *Geoscientists-in-Training (GITs) and Students* – The Chair thanked GITs and students for attending the AGM and noted that although ineligible to vote at the AGM, GITs and students are encouraged to be active participants with PGO with opportunities available for GITs to join various Committees and Council.
- (e) *In Memoriam* – A moment of silence was observed to honour the passing of former PGO registrants: Barry Browne, Douglas Kim, T. John Magee, and Joel Scodnick.
- (f) *Welcome Address* – The President noted that PGO reports to the Ministry of

Energy and Mines. He further noted that, unfortunately, a Ministry representative was unable to join the meeting.

- (g) *TD Insurance* – TD Insurance was acknowledged as the PGO’s group insurance program partner.

2. **NOTICE OF MEETING**

- (a) *Timing of Notice* - According to By-Law No.1A, an Annual General Meeting must be held within six months of the fiscal year-end. Notice of the Meeting must be provided to registrants no later than ten days prior to the meeting.
- (b) *Confirmation of Notice* - Andrea Waldie, Interim CEO, confirmed that Notice of this Meeting of Members was delivered on March 13, 2025 to all registered members in good standing.

3. **VOTING PROCEDURES**

The Chair outlined the voting procedures for both in-person and virtual attendees. It was reminded that eligible voters include Ontario-registered practicing, limited, temporary, and non-practicing registrants in good standing. Attendees who do not fall under those categories were asked to abstain from voting.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY AND SCRUTINEERS**

- (a) *Recording Secretary* – Brooke Lanziner of MinuteTakers Inc. was appointed as the official Recording Secretary to take the Minutes of the meeting.
- (b) *Appointment of Scrutineers* – The Chair announced that Craig Waldie, PGO registrant, and Melanie Siewert, PGO registrant and former Past President, have been appointed as Scrutineers.

5. **SAFETY AND DIVERSITY MINUTES**

- (a) *Safety Minute* – Clayton Sereres presented a Safety Minute on the electrical hazards posed by overhead powerlines.
- (b) *Diversity Minute* – Joanna Hodge provided a Diversity Minute, highlighting the challenges that internationally-trained geoscientists applying for and obtaining registration as GITs and professional geoscientists can face and offered ways to mitigate these challenges.

6. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The Chair requested that attendees with real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest either exit or disconnect from the meeting during the item concerned. The floor was then invited to declare any known conflicts of interest arising with respect to items as outlined on the Agenda. As no conflicts of interest were brought forth, the Chair declared the item of business closed.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM**

Craig Waldie, Scrutineer, reported on attendance. Two proxies were received from registrants in good standing who assigned their voting rights to Past President, Mary-Anne Hildebrandt. It was announced that the combined number of PGO registrants attending online and in-person totalled 89 registrants. C. Waldie declared that quorum was successfully achieved.

8. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Chair advised that the Agenda of the 2025 Annual General Meeting was provided online in advance of the Annual General Meeting, noting that no additions or amendments were received in advance of the Meeting, and queried whether there were any additions or amendments from the floor. As no additions or amendments were brought forth, the following motion was noted:

Motion AGM #23-1

Joanna Hodge moved that the Agenda for the 23rd Professional Geoscientists Ontario Annual General Meeting be approved and that the Chair be authorized to revise the order of business as necessary to accommodate the needs of the meeting. Seconded by Bill McGuinty. Carried.

9. **MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- (a) *Adoption of the Minutes* – The Chair advised that the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on June 20, 2024, were included in the agenda package.

The Chair called for any errors or omissions to the June 20, 2024 Minutes. There being none, the Chair requested a Motion that the Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion AGM #23-2

Clayton Sereres moved that the Minutes of the 22nd Professional Geoscientists Ontario Annual General Meeting held on June 20, 2024 be adopted as presented. Seconded by Paul Hubley. Carried.

- (b) *Business Arising from the Minutes* – The Chair advised that any business arising from the Minutes may be brought forward under the Agenda item ‘General Business’, later in the meeting.

10. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

The Chair presented a report regarding the past year’s activities and the path forward, with highlights noted as follows:

- (a) *Delivery of Annual Report* – The Annual Report, which provides a summary of the activities of PGO over the past 12 months, was submitted to the Minister of Energy and Mines and was made available on the PGO Website at www.pgo.ca on May 30, 2025. Registrants, GITs and student members were notified to allow for review of the report prior to this meeting.
- (b) *Key Initiatives* – In addition to referencing the Annual Report, the Chair briefly highlighted several ongoing initiatives related to regulatory consultation, mentorship and outreach, professional practice development, and strategic planning for PGO’s future activities.

11. **2024 ANNUAL AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

11.1 **Auditor’s Report** – Michael Bunn, Councillor and PGO Treasurer, provided a brief overview of the Audited Financial Statements that were prepared by Bateman MacKay LLP, relating to the fiscal year period January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

- (a) *Auditor’s Report* – The auditor’s report indicated that the statements referred to therein present fairly the financial position of PGO and the results of its operations for that period in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding period.
- (b) *Council Approval* – PGO Council approved the statements at its meeting of May 22, 2025.
- (c) *Further Review* – For further review, attendees were reminded that the statements and Auditor’s report were included in the Annual Report found on the PGO website.

11.2 **Appointment of Auditors** – Michael Bunn announced that the Audit Committee recommends appointing Bateman MacKay LLP as PGO’s auditor for the 2025 fiscal year. The following motion was noted:

Motion AGM #23-3

Deborah McCombe moved the appointment of Bateman MacKay LLP as the auditor for Professional Geoscientists Ontario for the 2025 year at remuneration to be set by Council. Seconded by Nataliya Tkach. Carried.

12. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

12.1 **Greetings from Geoscientists Canada** – President Christine Vaillancourt, P.Geo., FGC (ON Director) extended greetings on behalf of Geoscientists Canada and congratulated PGO on its 25th anniversary. C. Vaillancourt acknowledged the positive collaboration between PGO and Geoscientists Canada and provided a brief update on recent national initiatives, including competency-based assessment work, knowledge standards updates, and outreach resources for GITs and professionals.

12.2 **Question and Answer Period** – The floor was opened for questions.

(a) *Interprovincial Incidental Practice* – An attendee inquired whether Geoscientists Canada would revisit efforts to streamline incidental practice between provinces, noting that past attempts had faced challenges. **Response:** C. Vaillancourt, Geoscientists Canada Ontario Director, noted that existing interprovincial agreements facilitate mobility, allowing professionals to register across provinces without redundant processes. Incidental practice remains a topic of ongoing discussion and potential refinement. Additional comments emphasized that despite technical mobility, the lack of an incidental practice mechanism poses practical challenges, particularly for geoscientists in the exploration and mining sectors and small firms. These challenges often lead to altered work patterns and inefficiencies. It was noted that while there is a desire to address the issue, some jurisdictions may be limited by the scope of their current legislative Acts. The topic remains under active review.

(b) *CEO Search* – It was queried whether a professional search firm has been engaged to recruit the next CEO for PGO. **Response:** Alicia Kimberley, Vice President of PGO, confirmed that a professional search firm is involved in the process, and elaborated that a working group has been established to lead the search, with interviews anticipated to begin in mid-July 2025 with the goal of hiring a new CEO by the end of August 2025.

(c) *Bill 5 and Potential Impacts on the PGA* – An attendee asked whether PGO has considered the possibility that the Professional Geoscientists Act (PGA) could be suspended under the new special economic zones introduced by Bill 5.

Additionally, it was inquired whether PGO, potentially in collaboration with Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO), might develop guidance for registrants in such a scenario. **Response:** This concern is being monitored and considered by PGO. While the final format of Bill 5 is still under review, early indications from PGO's government relations advisors suggest there is no current intent to alter or suspend the PGA. The matter remains unsettled, and PGO will continue to monitor the situation.

- (d) *Support for Internationally Trained Geoscientists* – A query was raised regarding the resources available for internationally trained geoscientists in the GIT stage who wish to fast-track the path to P.Geol. designation. A follow-up question was posed as to whether a formal or informal mentorship program exists to connect GITs with experienced professionals in exploration or economic geology. **Response:** It was indicated that PGO offers support for internationally trained geoscientists and is in the process of launching a new mentorship program open to all interested parties. Attendees were advised to watch for announcements through official PGO communications. Additionally, the PGO website contains detailed guidance on the GIT and P.Geol. pathways, and those seeking more specific assistance were encouraged to contact the Registrar's office directly for personalized support.

13. **PARTICIPATING IN PGO DECISION-MAKING**

Kelly Bolduc O'Hare, Council Secretary, provided an overview of how registrants and members of the public can contribute to PGO's decision-making processes. Opportunities include volunteering for committees, applying during the Council election period, and responding to open calls for participation. PGO encourages inclusive engagement and emphasized that both registrants and non-registrants may serve.

14. **RECOGNITION**

14.1 **Recognition of Outgoing Council Members** – The Chair recognized those who had served on PGO Council and whose terms had come to an end as of this AGM; namely:

- Ryan Weston, P.Geol.
North West Regional Councillor
2022 – 2025
- Laura Katz, P.Geol.
North East Regional Councillor
2021 – 2025

- Nataliya Tkach, P.Ge.
Central Regional Councillor
2024 – 2025
- Sheila Daniel, P.Ge.
Councillor-at-Large
2022 – 2025
- William Skura
Non-Registrant Public Appointee
2022 – 2025
- Kristina Small, P.Ge.
Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC)
Registrant Appointee
2020 – 2025

14.2 **Recognition of Outgoing Past President** – The Chair recognized and thanked outgoing Past President, Mary-Anne Hildebrandt, P.Ge., FGC, for the generous commitment of time and expertise during their tenure on PGO's Council. M. Hildebrandt served on the Council between 2021 and 2025 as follows:

- *Councillor-at-Large (2021 – 2022)*
- *Vice President (2022 – 2023)*
- *President (2023 – 2024)*
- *Past President (2024 – 2025)*

And participated in the following Committees:

- *Executive Committee*
- *Nominations Committee*
- *Governance Committee*
- *Professional Practice Committee*
- *Geology Subcommittee*
- *Climate Change and Sustainability Committee*
- *Diversity and Inclusion Committee*
- *Symposium Planning Committee*
- *Past Presidents Committee*
- *Ad-Hoc Working Groups (when required)*

15. **APPOINTMENTS AND ACCLAMATIONS**

The Chair provided an overview of the 2025/2026 Council composition, including

acclamations, Council appointments, and anticipated appointments as follows:

(a) *Acclamations to Council* – No election was held this year, as one nomination was received per available position. The following individuals were acclaimed to Council positions:

- Vice President – Alicia Kimberley, P.Ge. (three-year progressive term: Vice President, President, Past President)
- North West Regional Councillor – Andrew Smith, P.Ge.
- North East Regional Councillor – Michaela Kuuskman, P.Ge.
- Central Regional Councillor – Roger Phillips, P.Ge.
- Councillor-at-Large – David Leng, P.Ge.
- Councillor-at-Large – Angela Mason, P.Ge.
- Councillor-at-Large – John Hogg, P.Ge.

The Chair welcomed all newly acclaimed members and acknowledged the beginning of their terms at the conclusion of the AGM.

(b) *Appointed Council Positions* – PGO Council also includes appointed positions, as per the Professional Geoscientists Act. The following appointments were noted:

- Non-Registrant Public Appointee (One-Year Term) – Paul Connor, MBA, FGC (Hon.)
- Non-Registrant Public Appointee (Three-Year Term) – Kelly Bolduc-O'Hare

One position remains vacant for a Lieutenant Governor in Council Non-Registrant Public Appointee, with an appointment expected by the Ministry of Energy and Mines in August 2025. Additionally, the Lieutenant Governor in Council Registrant Appointee position will become vacant in August 2025. Interested registrants were encouraged to apply through the Ontario Public Appointments Secretariat website.

(c) *Call for Engagement* – The Chair acknowledged and thanked all individuals who participated in the nomination process. Registrants, GITs, and students were encouraged to consider future involvement in Council and committee work, in support of PGO's public protection mandate.

(d) *President Appointment Process* – Scott McLean, Chair of the Nominations Committee addressed the upcoming vacancy in the President's role. With the current President transitioning to Past President at the close of the AGM and the Vice President position previously vacated, the President's position will become

vacant. As outlined in *Bylaw 1A, Section 21.0.10*, Council may appoint an individual from among eligible former Past Presidents, provided the bylaw criteria are met. Council will proceed with this appointment process to ensure continuity and effective governance.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion AGM #23-4

Bill Pearson moved that the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Registrants of Professional Geoscientists Ontario be adjourned.

The meeting was accordingly concluded at 2:38 p.m.

17. **AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Mary-Anne Hildebrandt hosted the Awards Ceremony and extended gratitude on behalf of Council, staff, and registrants, to those who give their time, energy and expertise in the profession.

17.1 **Awards Ceremony**

- (a) *Fellowship of Geoscientists Canada (FGC) Designation* – The FGC designation, administered by Geoscientists Canada, recognizes noteworthy contributions to the geoscience profession in Canada.
- (b) *Recipients* – PGO was proud to acknowledge those who received the Fellowship of Geoscientists Canada (FGC) Designation as follows:
 - *Robert Hearst, P.Geo., FGC Designation*
 - *Michael Jones, P.Geo., FGC Designation*

Both individuals were recognized for their dedicated volunteer service and significant contributions to the geoscience profession and the public interest.

- 17.2 **2025 Photo Contest Winners** – PGO hosted a photo contest inviting registrants, GITs, and student members to submit original photographs that showcase geoscience in action and highlight the profession's role in protecting the public and the environment. The winners of the contest were announced and congratulated as follows:

- *First Place (\$500 and a featured cover photo on the 2025 PGO Annual Report): Sarah Reese, GIT*

- *Second Place (\$300): Iliia Gusakov, P.Geo.*
- *Third Place (\$100): Steffen Schmidt, P.Geo.*

18. **CLOSING REMARKS**

The Chair thanked all attendees for their participation and continued commitment to PGO, including staff and volunteers who contributed towards the organization of the AGM. Information regarding the evening events was provided.

Summary of Motions

Motion AGM #23-1

Joanna Hodge moved that the Agenda for the 23rd Professional Geoscientists Ontario Annual General Meeting be approved and that the Chair be authorized to revise the order of business as necessary to accommodate the needs of the meeting. Seconded by Bill McGuinty. Carried.

Motion AGM #23-2

Clayton Sereres moved that the Minutes of the 22nd Professional Geoscientists Ontario Annual General Meeting held on June 20, 2024 be adopted as presented. Seconded by Paul Hubley. Carried.

Motion AGM #23-3

Deborah McCombe moved the appointment of Bateman MacKay LLP as the auditor for Professional Geoscientists Ontario for the 2025 year at remuneration to be set by Council. Seconded by Nataliya Tkach. Carried.

Motion AGM #23-4

Bill Pearson moved that the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Registrants of Professional Geoscientists Ontario be adjourned.

DRAFT

President

Date: _____

DRAFT

Chief Executive Officer

Date: _____