



PGO to remove Canadian work experience requirement for internationally trained geoscientists

October 3, 2023— Professional Geoscientists Ontario (PGO) is pleased to announce that it has removed the Canadian work experience requirements from its licensing criteria for internationally trained applicants, effective immediately.

All applicants must still fulfill the work experience requirements of professional geoscientists, which is at least four years (48 months) and will be reviewed through a competency-based assessment (CBA) framework. However, before the recent update, applicants had to show that 12 months of their work experience was obtained in Canada or in a Canadian work environment.

“This change, which is in compliance with the new Ontario government requirements for all regulated professions, removes a major barrier facing internationally trained geoscientists looking to work in Ontario and supports a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive application process,” says Tony Andrews, Executive Director and CEO of PGO. “It will also allow internationally trained applicants to practice their profession sooner, without lowering standards and increasing risk to the public.”

Applicants looking to practice as professional geoscientists in Ontario must continue to fulfill the necessary knowledge requirements. Both Canadian and International transcripts must be submitted, and international transcripts are assessed for equivalency. Applicants must pass the Professional Practice and Ethics (PPE) examination before being granted professional registration. A minimum of four references are also required.

“We are confident that this change will not affect the high standards we set for all applicants,” says Eilidh Lewis, Registrar, PGO. “This is a big change, but we believe it will only benefit applicants and the profession as a whole.”

The new requirements were enacted by the Ontario government on December 2, 2021, under the *Working for Workers Act, 2021*, which made several targeted amendments to the Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act, 2006 (FARPACTA).

ABOUT PGO

Professional Geoscientists Ontario (PGO) is a self-regulatory organization governing the practice of professional geoscience in Ontario and reporting to the Minister of Mines. The organization is governed by a twenty-member Council and is supported by committees of geoscience professionals and a small, dedicated staff. PGO was created in 2000 when the Professional Geoscientists Act received Royal Assent on June 23, 2000. The mandate of

PGO is to serve and protect the public interest by governing the practice of professional geoscience in Ontario. To accomplish this, the Province of Ontario has entrusted PGO with the responsibility to register geoscientists, admit only qualified persons who pass standards of knowledge and experience, maintain standards of practice and ethics, respond to complaints concerning our registrants, discipline when necessary and encourage continuing professional competence.

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