



# 2023 Virtual Symposium

April 18, 20, 25 & 27, 2023



# Welcome Remarks



**Craig Waldie, P. Geo. FGC**  
Chair, 2023 Symposium Planning Committee

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# Panel Session A Co-Chairs



**Kristin Hanson, P.Geo.  
(Non-practising), FGC  
Retired**



**Alicia Kimberley, P.Geo.  
Tatham Engineering**

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# Panel Session A

This is your PGO - We Self-regulate Together

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# Land Acknowledgement

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# Panel Session A

## Presentations and Speakers

1) *Jurisdictional Professional Geoscience in Canada – Same, same, but different*  
**Andrea Waldie, P.Geo., FGC**, CEO of Geoscientists Canada (GC)

2) *What is professional self-regulation?*  
**Erica Richler**, Co-managing Partner, Steinecke Maciura LeBlanc

3) *PGO - Adapting to evolving best practices in self-regulation*  
**Tony Andrews, PhD**, CEO, Professional Geoscientists Ontario

4) *Panel Discussion*  
**Co-chairs and Speakers**

-----**5-MINUTE BREAK**-----

Panel Discussion continued

5) *Q & A Session*

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# Group Insurance Program Partner

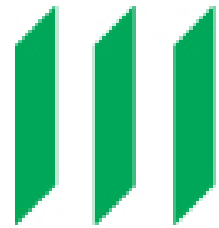


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## Presentation 1

Jurisdictional  
Professional  
Geoscience in  
Canada – Same,  
same, but  
different



**Andrea Waldie,**  
**P.Geo., FGC**  
CEO  
Geoscientists Canada (GC)

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PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTISTS ONTARIO

# 2023 VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

Jurisdictional Professional  
Geoscience in Canada –  
Same, same, but different

Andrea Waldie, P.Geo., FGC

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

# Cautionary Statement

- Information contained in this presentation is for general information purposes only and should not be taken as legal or technical advice.
- Information presented has been summarized and paraphrased for presentation purposes.
- Any views expressed by the presenter are the personal views of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of Geoscientists Canada or any of its Member provincial and territorial geoscience practice regulators.
- The contents of this presentation may not be modified without the written permission of Geoscientists Canada.

# Topics

- What is Geoscientists Canada?
- Canadian Geoscience Practice Regulators – Similarities & Differences
- Why is there no national regulator?
- Mobility

# What is Geoscientists Canada?



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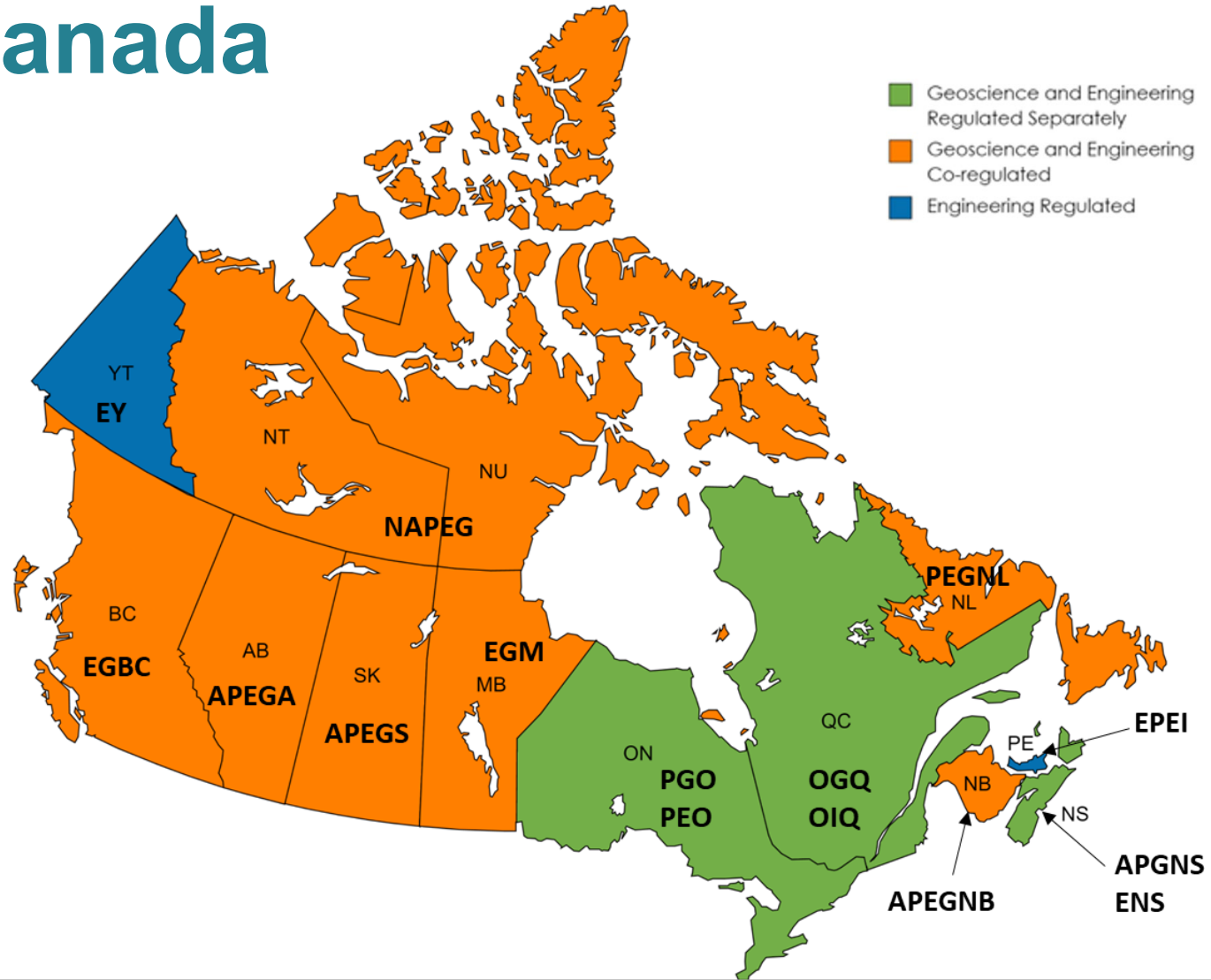
[www.geoscientistscanada.ca](http://www.geoscientistscanada.ca)

- National organisation of the 10 provincial and territorial geoscience practice regulators – the Members
  - Geoscientists Canada is not a regulator
- Conducts work on behalf of the Members
- Purpose:
  - Engage with and facilitate cooperation among the Members
  - Represent Members nationally and internationally
  - Support the Members
- Organisation structure – small but mighty

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# Professional Geoscience Regulators in Canada



Source: Geoscientists Canada

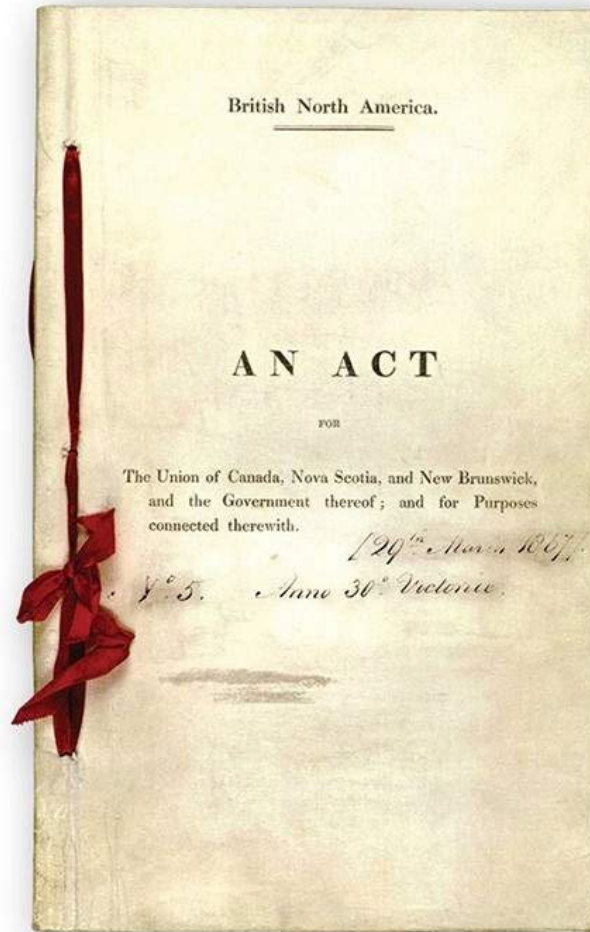
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# Canadian Geoscience Practice Regulators Same, same – but different

- More similarities than differences
  - Code of Ethics
  - Registration Standards
  - Guidance Documents
  - Professional Reporting Requirements
- Regulator adoption of Geoscientists Canada standards recommendations has supported:
  - Substantially the same registration requirements
  - Greater ease of mobility between jurisdictions



# So, why is there no national geoscience regulator?



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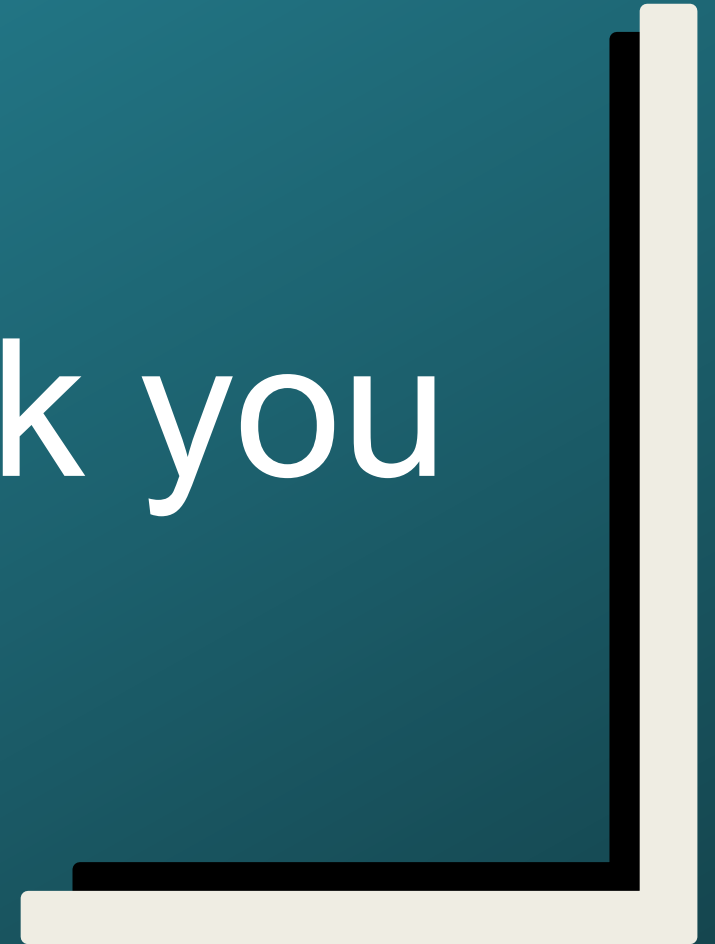


# Mobility



- Canada Free Trade Agreement – Registered professionals may become registered in another jurisdiction with an equivalent licence (transfer or additional registration)
  - Without material additional training, experience, examinations or assessments (exceptions apply)
- 2021 – 350 Professional Geoscientists transferred or obtained an additional registration (Quebec & Saskatchewan data not included)
- PGO has incidental practice available to professional registrants from other jurisdictions

Thank you



## Presentation 2

What is  
professional  
self-regulation?



**Erica Richler**

Co-managing Partner  
Steinecke Maciura LeBlanc

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# What is professional self-regulation?

Erica Richler

April 18, 2023

# What is self-regulation?

- Delegation from government to profession
- Profession determines:
  - *Entry to practice*
  - *Standards of practice*
  - *Discipline*
- Professional Geoscientists Act
  - *Profession makes up majority of Council*

# Public Interest Mandate

- PGO's duty under the *Professional Geoscientists Act*:
  - *serve and protect the public interest*

“The privilege of self-government is granted to professional organizations only in exchange for, and to assist in, protecting the public interest with respect to the services concerned”

(David A.A. Stager and Harry W. Arthurs, cited in *Law Society of Ontario v. Diamond*, 2021 ONCA 255)

# Period of Transition

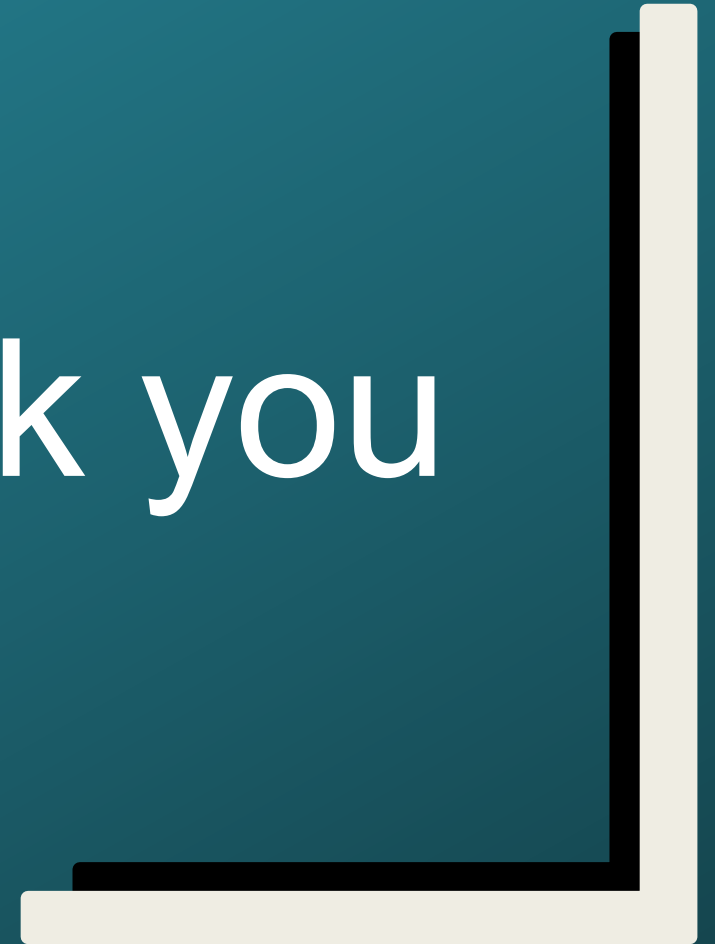
- Many changes in recent years away from traditional self-regulation
- A few examples:
  - *Professional Governance Act* in British Columbia
  - *Health Professions and Occupations Act* in British Columbia (not yet in force)
  - College of Nurses of Ontario Vision 2020
  - Ontario College of Teachers governance reforms

# Trends in Regulation

- Increased oversight of regulator
- Smaller boards
- Competence-based selection for board and committee members
- Increased public representation on boards and committees



Thank you



## Presentation 3

PGO - Adapting to  
evolving best  
practices in  
self-regulation



**Tony Andrews, PhD**  
CEO  
Professional Geoscientists Ontario

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*PGO – Adapting to Evolving Best  
Practices in Self-Regulation*

Tony Andrews

April, 18, 2023

# ***PGO – Adapting to Evolving Best Practices in Self-Regulation***

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## 1. Where we are now

*Clarifying PGO's Role and Current Challenges*

## 2. Where we are heading

*New Expectations of Professional Regulators*

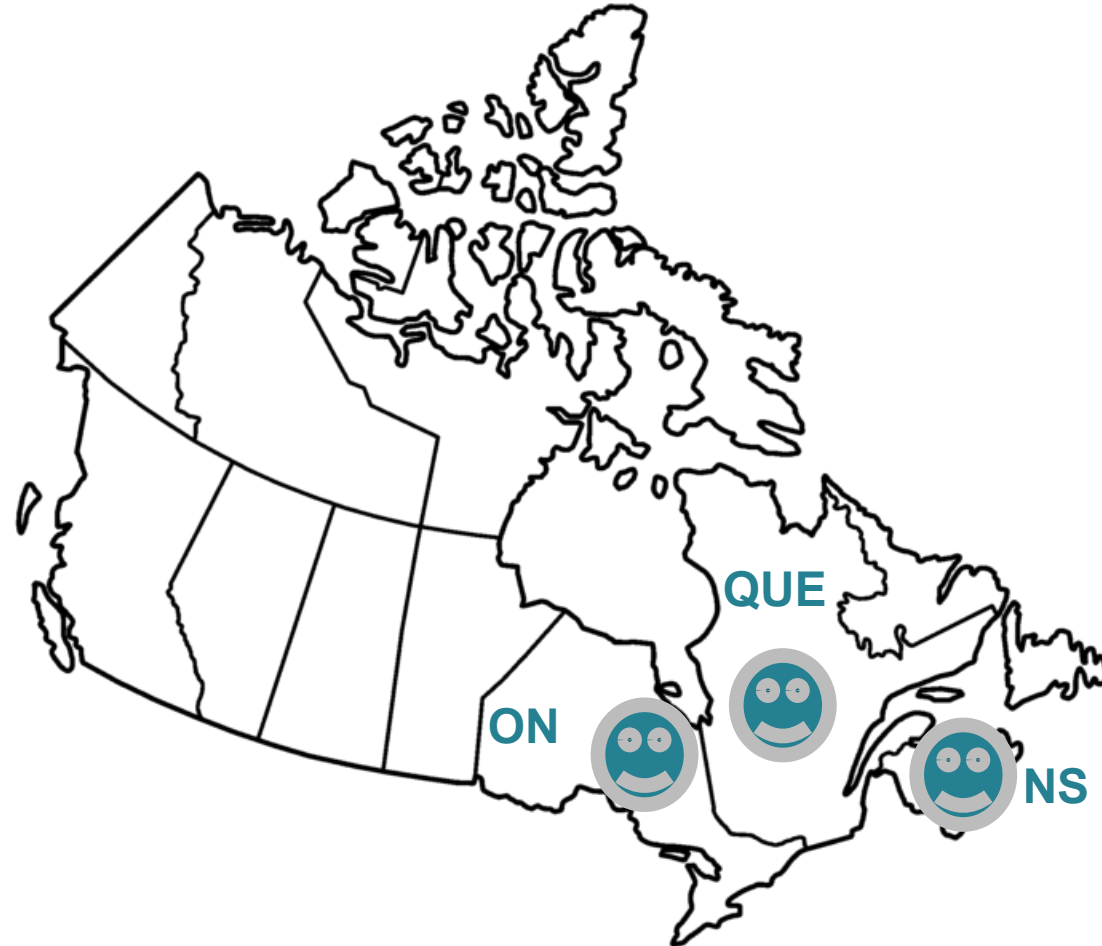


# Clarifying PGO's Role

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**We regulate  
geoscientists  
only**

**All other SROs  
regulate both  
geoscientists  
and engineers**



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# Clarifying PGO's Role

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## *What we are not – what we don't do*

- We are not a 'member'- based organization
- We don't have 'members', we have 'registrants'
- We do not advocate on behalf of the geoscience community



## *What we are – what we do*

- We are a regulatory body
- We exist to protect the public
- We license and regulate professional geoscientists



# Clarifying PGO's Role

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## *How do the public benefit from PGO?*

- Ensuring that P.Geo.s are properly qualified
- Ensuring P.Geo.s practice to established standards
- Working to address unlicensed practitioners



## *How do professional geoscientists benefit from PGO*

- Providing the means for geoscientists to practice their profession
- Support through knowledge and practice guidance
- Standards of ethical behaviour within the geoscience community
- Protecting the reputation of the geoscience community



# Clarifying PGO's Role

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## *What's new at PGO?*

- Diversity & Inclusion
- Sustainability & Climate Change
- Incidental Practice Registration
- Formalizing a Risk Management Approach & Culture



# Clarifying PGO's Role

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*What are PGO's key challenges at this time?*

- Managing unlicensed practitioners
- Amending the Professional Geoscientists Act
- Aligning our governance and regulatory practices with evolving leading practices

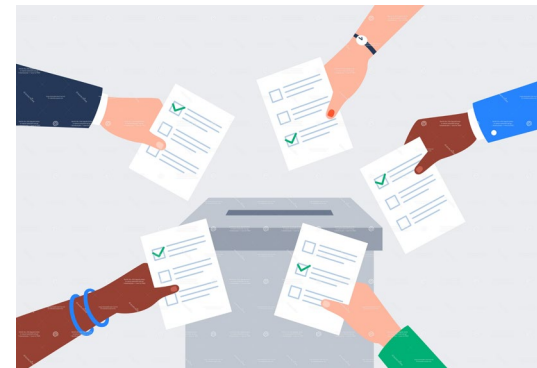
# New Expectations of Professional Regulators

- **Smaller Councils/Boards**
- **Separation of functions and membership of Council and Committees**
- **Co-Regulation: parity of professional members and public members on Council and Committees**
- **Opening the leadership to public members**

# New Expectations of Professional Regulators

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- Competency-based appointment to Council and Committees
- Appointment vs election of Council and Committees
- Traditional decision-making power of registrants





*Self-regulation is a privilege not a right and this privilege should be nurtured and appreciated by both the regulators and the regulated*

Thank you

# Panel Discussion

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# Panel Discussion

1. Why would governments want to take on the regulation of professionals if a self-regulatory body is in place?
2. What would be the difference to an individual practitioner between being part of a self-regulating profession vs a government-controlled regulator?
3. Are there actions being taken by other regulators in Canada that might impact PGO registrants?

## Panel Discussion

4. What obligation does a Self-Regulating Organization (SRO) have when it receives a complaint about a registrant?
5. What about a non-registrant?
6. Is a registrant of an SRO obligated to report if they observe illegal practice?

# Panel Discussion

7. Are there trends in professional discipline cases that are pertinent to PGO registrants?
8. How do I identify practice that should be reported?
9. How do I report illegal or unprofessional practice?
10. Scenario Question: A site is located in Quebec where a geoscientist collects samples, a second geoscientist in Ontario reviews the data and writes a report, a third geoscientist in Nova Scotia provides senior quality review of the report and signs it as the QP (Qualified Person). The report is submitted to a regulator in Quebec and a client in British Columbia. Where is professional practice taking place?
11. I don't want to have someone file a complaint against me! What can I do to ensure that my practice continues to meet the requirements of PGO?



# 5-minute Break

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# Panel Discussion

1. What does a PGO Councillor do?
2. Does the PGO take volunteers other than those that are elected to Council?
3. How do I volunteer? Please email PGO at [info@pgo.ca](mailto:info@pgo.ca)

# Q & A Session

Use the dialogue box to submit your questions.

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# We need your feedback.

Please complete the online survey.

Click on the SURVEY tab on your screen.

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# Symposium contact information

Marilen Miguel  
mmiguel@pgo.ca

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## Panel Session B

# Achieving Canada's New Climate Adaptation and Biodiversity Goals

**April 20, 2023**

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ET

## Co-Chairs



Joanna Eyquem, P. Geo.  
Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation  
University of Waterloo



Kristina Anderson, P. Geo.  
Toronto Region Conservation Authority

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