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Professional Geoscientist Self-Regulation In Small Jurisdictions: Lessons Learned by Geoscientists Nova Scotia and Applicability for International Start-ups.

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In Canada, geoscientists working in the minerals and oil and gas industries, environmental consulting, academia and government are legally required to be registered as a professional geoscientist (P. Geo.) with a provincial professional association. These Associations work with Geoscientists Canada to provide interprovincial consistency and mobility.

In most Canadian jurisdictions, existing professional engineering associations extended their legislation to include geoscientists. This provided economies of scale for the geoscientist minority. In Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, geologists developed their own professional legislation.

Since 2002, the membership in the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia (Geoscientists Nova Scotia) has grown from less than 50 to more than 200 members. Geoscientists Nova Scotia has benefited through cooperation with the other larger provincial associations and Geoscientists Canada.

Examples of start-up and the ongoing challenges experienced by Geoscientists Nova Scotia over the past 20 years will be presented.

