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## **Canadian National Professional Practice Examination for Geoscientists: Its Evolution and Future Directions Including International Applicability**

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Within Canada, engineering and geoscience professional associations require applicants to complete a professional practice and ethics examination prior to becoming licensed as a professional member.

Over a decade ago, the Association of Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA), in collaboration with several other Canadian associations, created the National Professional Practice Examination (NPPE) to meet this requirement. Today over 8,000 applicants per year take the examination across the country as the number of professional members grows in each constituent association.

This presentation will provide a history of how the NPPE came to be and how it has evolved into an on-line computer based administration that can be taken anywhere in the world. Details will be provided regarding required preparation, example tests, examination composition and psychometric methods used to develop, score, and maintain a defensible examination program.

Experiences including pass rate statistics will provide a thorough context for the challenges and opportunities associated with building an examination program used by many jurisdictions across Canada and administered to candidates from diverse demographic groups.

