

CHARTING the Course



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Larry Staples, P.Eng.
APEGGA President, 2005-2006

I have had the privilege of serving as your 86th president, and I am pleased to report some of the highlights of the past year.

During my visits with members in the 10 branches across the province and during visits to dozens of companies, I'm continually impressed

by the creativity and competence being brought to problems, processes and projects. Engineers and geoscientists are at centre stage in the development of Alberta's resource wealth, plus the requisite municipal and industrial infrastructure.

APEGGA members are building the quality of life in our great province, one great job at a time.

We have 14 APEGGA members per 1,000 population in Alberta, which is nearly three times the national average. It is clear that engineers and geoscientists are an integral part of the fabric of society in Alberta, providing leadership in their communities, their companies, our governments and our universities.

Beyond our provincial borders, the APEGGA organization and individual members have provided sterling leadership for the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists and other national organizations. As I have met with other provincial associations and international bodies, I have been tremendously proud to learn that they recognize our staff and our volunteer colleagues as valued contributors.

MOBILITY

Mobility – the movement of qualified professionals to projects in other jurisdictions – is, as always, important to our members and the world economy. Therefore, it's just as important to APEGGA.

APEGGA has taken the initiative to host the Second Canada/United States Mobility Forum, in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting in April. Representatives from several state legislatures and state registration boards

(the U.S. counterparts to APEGGA) will gather in Edmonton to make tangible progress on cross-border mobility for professional engineers.

GOVERNANCE

As a result of the more formal strategic planning process introduced in 2005, APEGGA now has a clear line of sight from the strategic plan to the annual business plan to the annual budget. The 2005 Annual Report will chart the early progress in this new level of accountability – hence our theme, *Charting the Course*.

Long-term goals are being addressed in annual increments, which will facilitate steady progress toward ultimate objectives. New President Dave Chalcraft, P.Eng., is leading the 2006 update of the APEGGA Strategic Plan.

Enhanced financial oversight has been achieved by focusing responsibility through two Council committees. The Audit Committee advises Council on accurate accounting and robust controls. The Finance Committee advises Council on budgeting and financial management.

Council has made a conscious effort to reduce time spent on routine items, in order to spend more time on the three essential tasks of councillors: strategy, policy and governance. Past President Linda Van Gastel, P.Eng., has led a thorough update of the Governance Manual to ensure that we have clear, efficient and transparent processes.

PUBLIC MEMBER LEAVES COUNCIL

There are many people who deserve my personal thanks, but space permits me to mention just one. He merits the sincere appreciation of many presidents and indeed the entire profession.

One of our public members of Council, Hugh Planche, is stepping down after seven years of service.

He could be counted on, following a thorny discussion, to tweak Council's thinking to clarity with a few words of wisdom and humour. Always an Alberta statesman, he took every opportunity to remind us that our professions, blessed with much knowledge and skill, have much to contribute to our province.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By H. Neil Windsor, P.Eng.
APEGGA Executive Director & Registrar

Alberta's strong resource-based economy continues to strain our professions to their limit and beyond. Never in our history have we seen such a rapid rate of development with investments in excess of \$130 billion being planned for the next decade.

The impact on APEGGA was predictable, with a

record number of applications received and professional licenses issued during the year. Of note is the increase in both the number and percentage of foreign-trained applicants notwithstanding public statements to the contrary, 92 per cent of them have been licensed over the past five years. This has created a heavy workload for registration staff and for our dedicated Board of Examiners.

While all this is positive from our industry's point of view, and employment opportunities for professionals remain at a high level, this surge of activity brings with it some real concerns. This rush of new practitioners in Alberta places demands on senior members who have to mentor and integrate these new professionals into the workplace. Industry is finding that it is sometimes more efficient and cost effective to parcel some of the design work to partners outside of Alberta and even outside Canada. APEGGA is wrestling with how we can assure Albertans that the work carried out in this manner is being supervised by an APEGGA licensed professional and that it meets all Canadian standards. As well, the demand for qualified professionals within the Pacific Northwest will place even greater strain on our already busy industry over the next decade.

Our members continue to provide leadership in many ways. APEGGA has representatives contributing through a number of government boards, agencies and technical committees that deal with the big picture issues. Other representatives serve on national committees such as CCPE and CCPG and a host of other national, provincial and regional bodies.

Alberta has tens of thousands of abandoned wellsites around the province and all of them require reclamation and rehabilitation. At the request of Alberta Environment, representatives have been working diligently with other

professions to create a regulatory system and to develop standards of practice and competencies to address this huge challenge.

Were it not for the almost 800 members who regularly contribute their time and talents to the multitude of APEGGA boards and committees, we simply could not operate as we do. APEGGA members help sustain and grow the Alberta Advantage both through their work and through their volunteer efforts.

As Alberta grows, so too must APEGGA grow and change to meet the realities of the time. Council has focused on creating a strong strategic plan to guide us into the future and has renewed our internal systems of governance and accountability to ensure transparency and efficiency of operation. To enable timely responses to members and the public, some modest increases in staff complement have been made, primarily in the area of licensure and regulation.

Once again, we enjoyed a successful year from an operational point of view. Revenues exceeded budget by \$47,000 while expenses dropped by \$253,000 for a surplus of \$309,000 at the end of the year. Total applications increased by 617 to a total of 4,174 in 2005, while membership increased by 1,891 to 43,975 at Dec. 31. Permits to practice increased 5.6 per cent to 3,366 and the number of geoscientists registered increased 4.1 per cent to 4,668.

Of note is the increase in the percentage of applications from outside Canada, 32 per cent compared with 29 per cent in 2004, while Canadian applicants dropped by two per cent and Alberta applicants by one per cent. This is consistent with the trend seen elsewhere.

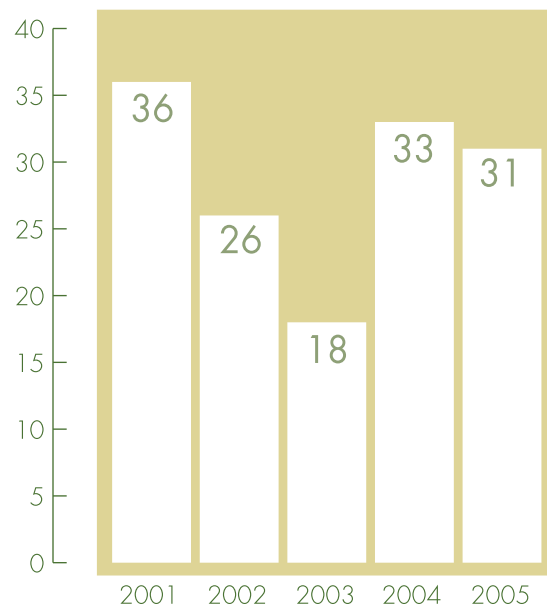
The year has certainly been challenging, with several unpredicted issues that required an inordinate amount of time and resources. Staff and volunteers have responded extremely well to keep the wheels of progress turning and for this I extend a sincere word of thanks to all for their commitment and dedication. President Larry Staples, P.Eng., and his Council have been diligent in their fiduciary duties and have provided both vision and oversight to all aspects of the operation. On behalf of staff, I offer our thanks for their support, guidance and understanding as, together, we dealt with the unique challenges presented to us.

CHARTING the Course



INVESTIGATIONS

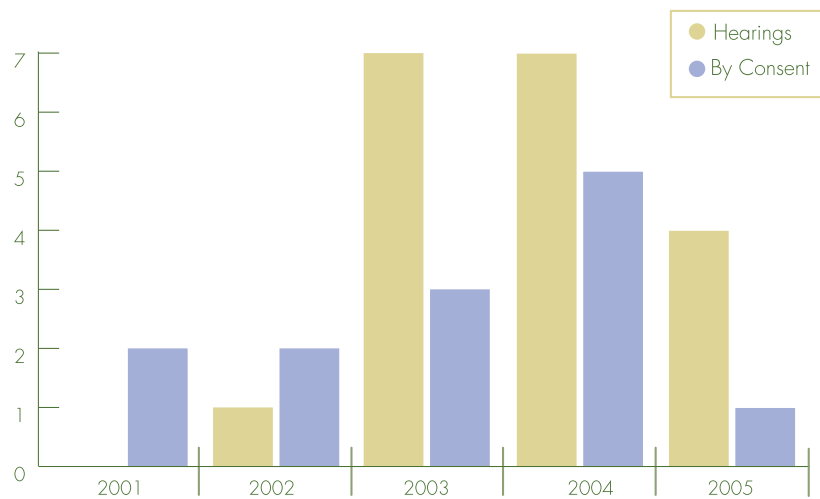
COMPLAINTS



- 18 ongoing investigations at the beginning of 2005
- 31 new complaints during the year
- Seven investigations withdrawn or abandoned
- 11 dismissed by Investigative Committee, two of which were appealed by complainants
- Six resolved through mediation
- Five forwarded to Discipline Committee
- Seven held in abeyance
- 36 complaints resolved

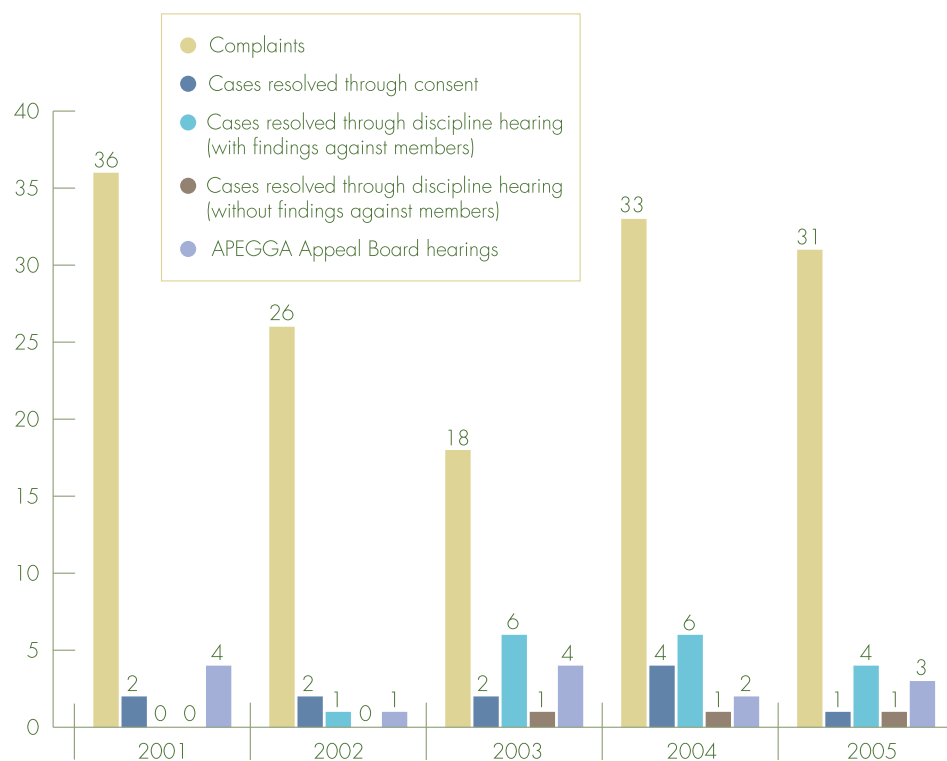
DISCIPLINE

DISCIPLINE DECISIONS



- Four cases decided by hearing with findings against
- One hearing resulted in dismissal of charges
- One case decided by consent – admission of unprofessional conduct
- Statutory committees may now direct against PEGG publication

APPEALS



- Internal appeal body for decisions of regulatory boards and committees
- Two appeals Investigative Committee dismissals
- One appeal from APEGGA member of decision and orders of Discipline Committee
- Concurrent appeal by Investigative Committee of sanctions imposed

Notes: Not all complaints require disciplinary action. Cases resolved through consent means the members investigated agreed to facts and penalty.

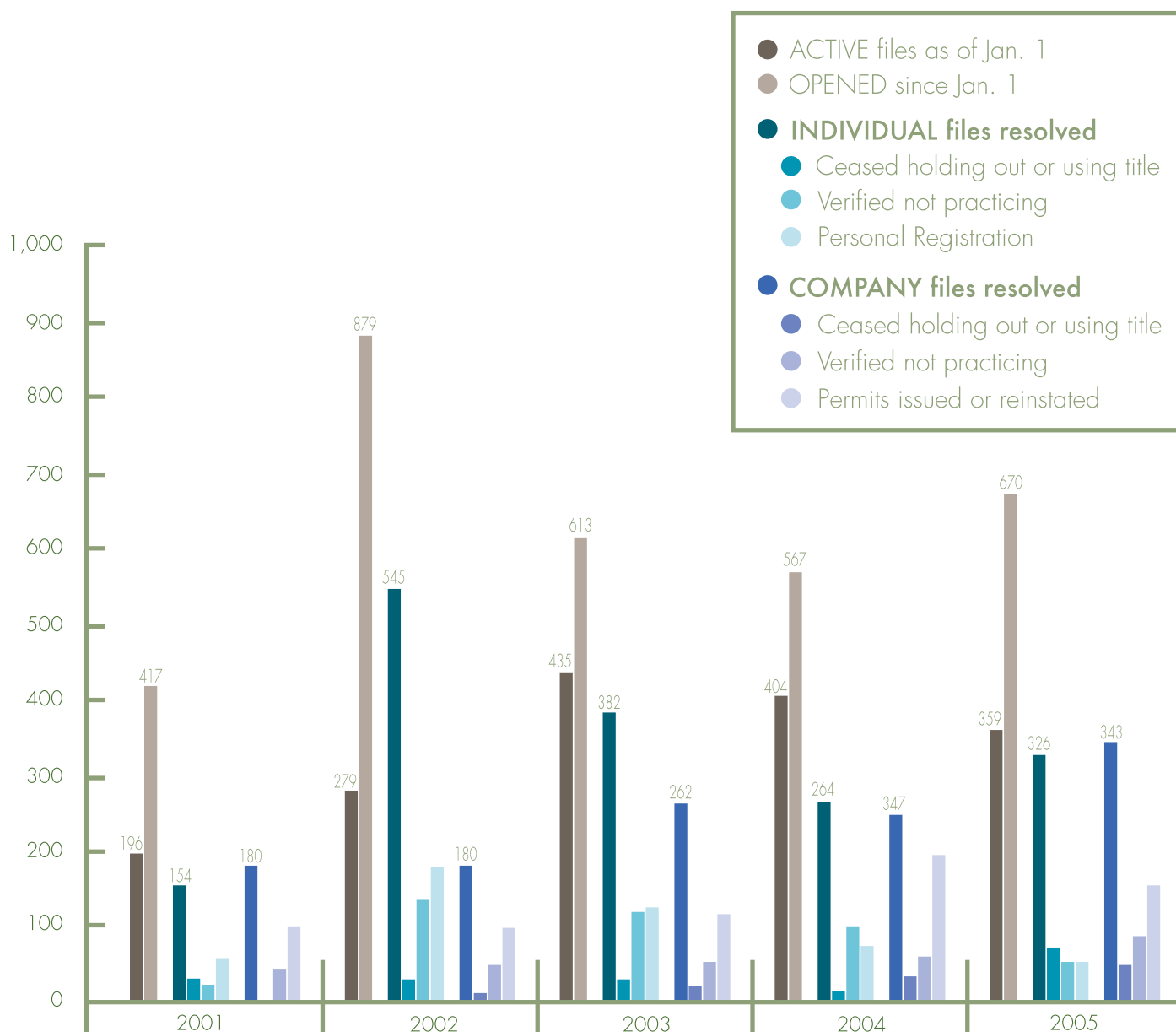


REGISTRATION

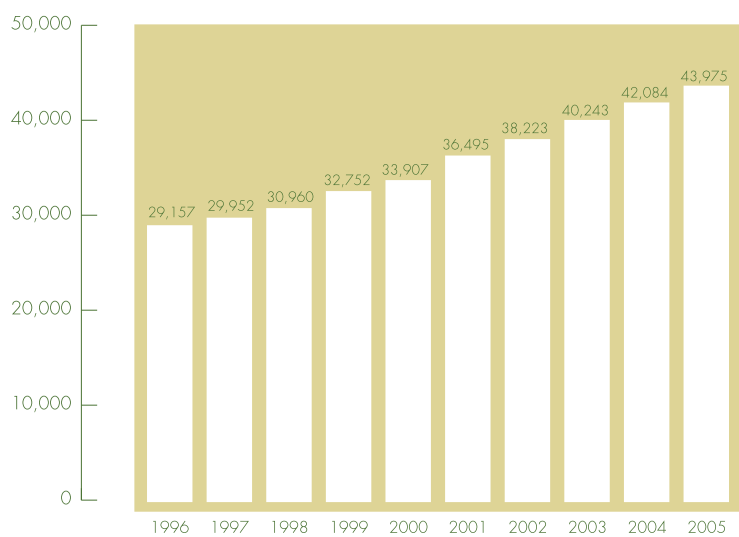
- Board of Examiners expertise spanning professions
- Applications up 18 per cent to 4,034
- Board roster up to 44 from 42 members
- B of E Policy Review Task Force examines policies, process, flexibility – without compromising public safety
- Growing expectation for smooth registration of internationally educated graduates
- Further challenge – emerging scopes and disciplines

COMPLIANCE

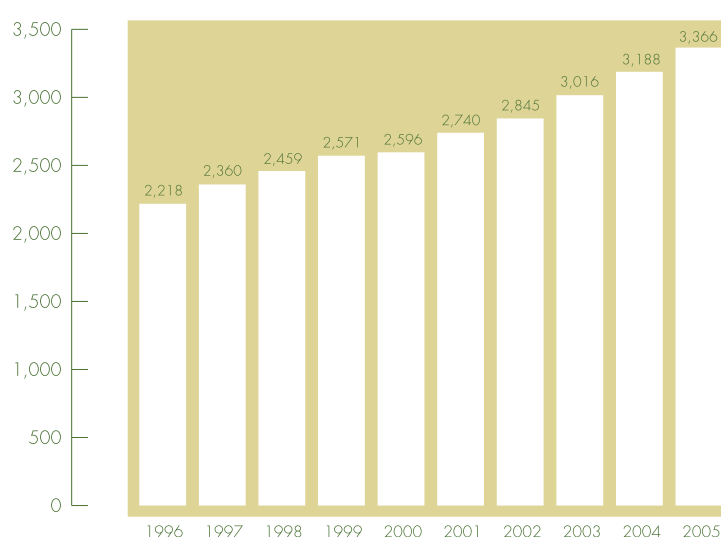
- Focus on non-members – those unqualified to practice, or those practicing who need to be licensed
- Council's stated goal is 100 per cent compliance
- Major generator of new permits to practice – about 75 per cent
- 670 files opened



MEMBERSHIP GROWTH



PERMIT GROWTH





INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED GRADUATES

- APEGGA is a national leader in implementing recommendations of the national study *From Consideration to Integration*
- Association-wide changes are under development
- Job Find events targeted international grads
- New mentoring pool addresses needs of immigrants
- Board of Examiners pays special attention to needs of immigrants – registration success rate of 92 per cent
- Staff begins cultural sensitivity training

OUTREACH

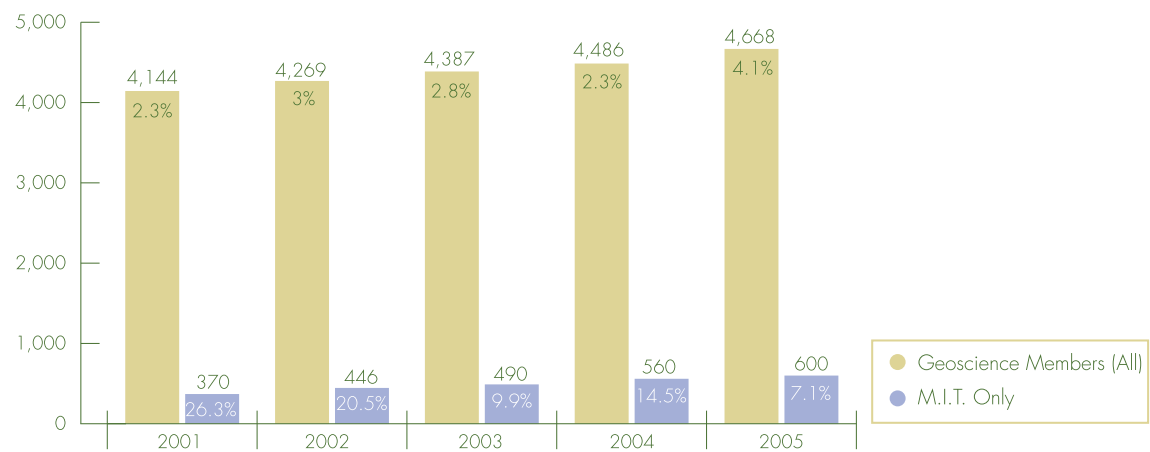
- Over 600 Outreach member volunteers
- Over 500 other member volunteers help with National Engineering & Geoscience Week
- Elementary school science nights expanded to eight, reaching up to 600 people at a time
- Over 500 science, math and technology events reached 50,000 students, teachers and others
- Attendance up at popular Rock & Fossil Clinics

GEOSCIENCE COMMUNITY

- Relationships strengthened through sponsorship and liaison activities with CSPG, CSEG and others
- Groundwork laid for new U of C Geology and Geoscience Department course on Practicing the Professions
- Geoscience membership growth up 78 per cent

GEOSCIENCE MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

The following graph represents professional members, members-in-training, life members, registered professional technologists and dual-registered members with geoscience designations.



Notes: Geoscience M.I.T. membership is represented in both bars.
Percentage growth over the year before is shown on each bar.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Increased emphasis on skill-based training
- Record number of delegates attended Annual Conference PD Days
- September, November PD days held, plus stand-alones

MENTORING

- Continued growth to over 300 registrants, over 100 pairs
- First Mentor of the Year named
- Moved mentoring software to in-house

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

- Inclusivity Consultation Group and Ipsos Red research informs Council discussions
- Implementation of brand strategy continued
- Partnered with Science Alberta Foundation and others for Innovations 2005, an Alberta Centennial project highlighting contributions of science, geoscience, engineering and technology
- First full year of e-PEGG
- Used e-PEGG to poll members on number of subjects
- PEGG advertising revenue reaches new high
- Website use reaches 380,000-plus unique users