



APGO
education
foundation

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APGO EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THE PASSING OF FOUNDING DIRECTOR DR. NEIL D.S. WESTOLL, P.GEO.

August 19, 2026, Toronto, Ontario: The APGO Education Foundation (“APGOEF”), mourns the loss of founding director **Dr. Neil D.S. Westoll, P.Geo.** who passed away peacefully at the age of 85 on August 12, 2026, after a brief battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Maureen, his daughter, Kathryn, his son, Andrew, his grandchildren, Ivy and Remy, and his daughters-in-law, Andrea and Samantha.

Dr. Westoll was widely experienced in mineral exploration and business development internationally, having spent over 50 years with senior and junior Canadian and international mining companies in exploration and business development and as an independent consultant to the mining industry. Since 2001, he has focused on the environmental and consultation aspects of the mining business. This has included work in notable areas such as the Ring of Fire in northern Ontario.

In January 2014, he joined as a founding director of APGOEF. The Foundation is focused on educating the public about geoscience, supporting undergraduate students studying geoscience and supporting internationally trained geoscientists to obtain their professional registration in Ontario.

In 2025, APGOEF celebrated its 10th anniversary. Its innovative flagship website, GeoscienceINFO.com launched in June 2017, now has 58 virtual field trips with a remarkable 571 stops plus a wide range of information to educate the public about geoscience. During those 10 years, APGOEF has awarded 19 scholarships totaling \$95,000 to 3rd year geoscience students that are proceeding to 4th year with a curriculum program enabling them to complete the knowledge requirements for professional registration. In addition, APGOEF has awarded \$31,500 in bursaries to support internationally trained geoscientists who are immigrants to Canada to obtain their professional registration with PGO. Dr. Westoll retired from the board of directors in June 2025 after 10 years of service.

Dr. Bill Pearson, P.Geo., Founding Chair of APGOEF commented: “Neil was a great friend and colleague who made many important contributions to our success launching and growing APGOEF not to mention his many contributions to professional geoscience and the Canadian mining industry. I will especially miss his great sense of humour and his keen insights in all manner of areas. Sincerest condolences to his wife Maureen and his family. RIP my friend, you will be greatly missed.”

A Celebration of Life for Neil will be held at the Ontario Racquet Club (884 Southdown Rd. Mississauga), Neil and Maureen’s beloved home-away-from-home, on Saturday, October 10, 2026 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with a reflection of his life at 2 p.m. Details are at: [Obituary of Neil Westoll](#).

ABOUT THE APGO EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The APGO Education Foundation (“APGOEF”) is a registered charitable organization under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, registration number 84604 5052 RR0001.

The purpose of the charity is to advance the education of the public in the area of geoscience by:

- Holding lectures, presentations, and conferences on geoscience both in person and virtually to introduce geoscience to high school and university students as well as enhance the knowledge of the general public.
- Providing scholarships to post-secondary students for the study of geoscience in the final year of a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree program.
- Providing bursaries to immigrants to Canada who are internationally trained geoscientists and have demonstrated financial need for completion of licensure procedures for registration as professional geoscientists (P.Geo.s) in Ontario.

APGOEF provides funding to support innovative geoscience education projects working with university geoscience departments, community groups and not-for-profit organizations across Ontario.

GeoscienceINFO.com, developed by the Foundation, is an innovative one-stop spot for the public to gather information about the earth beneath their feet. This website provides interesting information on all facets of geoscience. A particularly exciting feature of GeoscienceINFO.com is the highlighting of virtual field trips in different areas in Ontario. This enables viewers to experience and learn about the geology of an area in person or while traversing it digitally in ESRI ArcGIS Online™ and StoryMaps™.

For further information please see our website at www.apgoef.ca

To Donate - <https://apgoef.ca/donate/>

For further information:

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