



## **APGO EDUCATION FOUNDATION AND NIAGARA PENINSULA ASPIRING GLOBAL GEOPARK SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**April 19, 2022, Toronto, Ontario:** The APGO Education Foundation (“the Foundation”) is pleased to announce the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with **Niagara Peninsula Aspiring Global Geopark (“NPAGG”)**. Under the MOU, NPAGG and the Foundation agree to work together to promote a greater understanding of geoscience and the environments of the Niagara Peninsula.

This partnership is established based on NPAGG’s and the Foundation’s respective competencies in education and public outreach. This MOU will strengthen the resources of both parties and will benefit the stakeholders each serves.

Dr. Bill Pearson, P.Geo., Chair of the Foundation, commented:

“We are delighted to become NPAGG’s geoscience education partner. We will be utilizing our innovative Virtual Field Trips in GeoscienceINFO.com and drawing on our extensive knowledge of the Niagara Escarpment and environs. We congratulate NPAGG on their excellent work to-date to become recognized as an Aspiring Global Geopark.”

Perry Hartwick, P.Geo., Chair of the Board of NPAGG, commented:

“Every Aspiring Global Geopark strives to incorporate and promote UNESCO’s Global Geopark Pillars within their respective management plans, which are: 1) Education, 2) Sustainable, Responsible Tourism, 3) Cultural Awareness, and 4) Geoconservation and Geotourism. This partnership with the Foundation allows the NPAGG to educate by drawing on world class geologic research to deliver Interactive Educational Programs for all ages and demographics.”

### **Benefits for NPAGG include:**

- Access to experienced geoscientists with specific expertise in geology and the environments of the Niagara Peninsula and who are currently carrying out leading edge research in the Hamilton-Niagara area of the Escarpment.
- Use of the Foundation’s innovative on-line digital system in ESRI ArcGIS Online™ to create “Virtual Field Trips” and “StoryMaps” of the Geosites within the Niagara Peninsula Aspiring Global Geopark (the “Geopark”) to give the public a better appreciation of geological features and environmental processes within the Geopark.

- Raise the profile of NPAGG in the geoscientific community through its association with the Foundation.
- Access to educational content developed by the Foundation's GeoscienceINFO.com initiative and integration of this information into the Global Geopark website and social media
- Access to a broad network of professional geoscientists with a wide range of skills.

**Benefits to the Foundation include:**

- Opportunity to expand public geoscience offerings across southern Ontario and be associated, initially, with an Aspiring Global Geopark, and ultimately with a Global Geopark.
- Access to educational content, programs and resources developed by NPAGG that can be used to enhance the proposed Virtual Field Trips and StoryMaps.
- Distribution of geological and environmental information developed by the Foundation through the Global Geopark website and social media.
- Raising the awareness of the Foundation, "GeoscienceINFO.com" and geoscientific social media posts through its association with NPAGG.

**ABOUT THE APGO EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

The APGO Education Foundation ("the Foundation") is a registered charitable organization under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, registration number 84604 5052 RR0001. The purpose of the Foundation is to advance the education of the public in geoscience by 1) promoting a greater understanding of geoscience to the public through our innovative website, [GeoscienceINFO.com](http://GeoscienceINFO.com) and public events; 2) supporting students studying geoscience and 3) supporting recent immigrants trained in geoscience to obtain their professional registration in Ontario.

[GeoscienceINFO.com](http://GeoscienceINFO.com) an innovative one-stop spot for the public for information about the earth beneath their feet. This new website provides interesting information on all facets of geoscience. A particularly exciting feature of [GeoscienceINFO.com](http://GeoscienceINFO.com) is the highlighting of virtual fieldtrips in different areas in Ontario. This enables viewers to experience and learn about the geology of an area while traversing it digitally in ESRI ArcGIS Online™ and StoryMaps™. Information on the latest discoveries and news in the world of geoscience is featured on the website, on our blog [Beneath Your Feet: A Geoscience Blog](#), as well as on our social media.

**ABOUT NIAGARA PENINSULA ASPIRING GLOBAL GEOPARK ("NPAGG")**

The Niagara Peninsula Aspiring Global Geopark is a non-regulatory, non-profit entity that benefits all Niagara residents, educational institutions, and business operators by fostering tourism in the region, developed in such a manner and scale that it is sustainable both economically and environmentally well into the future. A critical goal is to ensure that all activities of the Geopark safeguard the Earth's life support systems on which the welfare of current and future generations depend.

Building on the fascinating geologic foundation of over 500 million years, with world renowned Niagara Falls as its beacon, the proposed Niagara Global Geopark will take its cues from what Indigenous peoples have been doing here for thousands of years; meeting, trading, sharing stories, harvesting food, and establishing strong family and cultural ties. The proposed Niagara Geopark will foster a strong collective pride in Niagara's geoheritage, in all its diverse manifestations - Indigenous, cultural, environmental, industrial, and agricultural - amongst all residents and warmly welcomed visitors. [The Niagara Peninsula Aspiring Geopark \(niagarageopark.com\)](http://niagarageopark.com)

For further information:

**APGO Education Foundation**

Please see our website at [www.apgoedfoundation.ca](http://www.apgoedfoundation.ca)

**To Donate** - <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/apgo-education-foundation/>

**Bill Pearson**, Ph.D., P.Geo., Chair  
Tel: 416-203-2746 Ext 40  
Email: [chair@apgoedfoundation.ca](mailto:chair@apgoedfoundation.ca)

**Monique Gaudet**, Business Manager  
Tel: 416-203-2746 Ext 40  
Email: [manager@apgoedfoundation.ca](mailto:manager@apgoedfoundation.ca)

**Niagara Peninsula Aspiring Global Geopark**

Please see our website at [www.niagarageopark.com](http://www.niagarageopark.com)

To become a friend of the Geopark or to join our Operator's Network,  
see our [members pledge page](#).

**Perry Hartwick**, P.Geo.  
Resident Geologist, Board Chair  
Tel: 905-329-7557  
Email: [perryhartwick@gmail.com](mailto:perryhartwick@gmail.com)

**Darren Platakis**  
Founder, Board Secretary  
Tel: 905-964-4169  
Email: [geospatialniagara@gmail.com](mailto:geospatialniagara@gmail.com)