



If you work in agriculture, agri-food or agri-life science or plan to gain employment within agri-business; turf management; ag environment/ecology; ag engineering; food quality assurance; soil, plant or animal science then your professional association is the Ontario Institute of Agrologists. The Profession of Agrology demands integrity, competence and objectivity in the conduct of its members while fulfilling their professional responsibilities to the Public, their Employer or Client, the Profession, and other Agrologists.

OIA MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Ontario Institute of Agrologists is to protect the public by licensing and safe guarding competence of Agrologists in Ontario and to build public confidence in Ontario's agriculture and agri-food system.

OIA VISION

The Ontario Institute of Agrologists will advance the professionalism of Agrologists serving society through adherence to a Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, as well as through the provision of quality advice and public accountability.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE OIA

Since 1960, the Ontario Institute of Agrologists has been comprised of professionals in agriculture. The OIA serves as a professional regulatory body in the Province of Ontario. Working to establish the highest standards for professional Agrologists, efforts are directed by designated professionals to ensure that the public has complete trust in the health and safety of Ontario's agriculture, agri-food and agri-life science sectors.

OIA members are employed by educational institutions, private industry and government agencies, and many are self employed. They are found in lending institutions, providing advice to farmers, in communications roles, in the fertilizer and seed business, food processing plants, in turf management and golf course operations, agricultural organizations and corporate boardrooms. As varied as their careers may be, OIA members have one thing in common: their strong commitment to serve the public interest through their work in every segment of the agriculture and agri-food system.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

To become a member of the OIA you need to earn or have earned a livelihood in the agriculture/agri-food system and be of good character. Membership categories include those who are retired, those 65 years of age who are classed as seniors, those with Distinguished and Honourary designations, and those with Associate status. However, there are three main categories of membership in the OIA:

1. A **Professional Agrologist** is a person registered to practice agrology under the Ontario Institute of Professional Agrologists Act (1962) with the designation P.Ag. Agrologists apply professional standards to all their services associated with the agriculture, agri-business and agri-food system in Ontario. To become a P.Ag you need to hold an Honours Undergraduate/Masters degree or a Ph.D. in agriculture or related science or management from an accredited Canadian University and complete the Articling Agrologist Program, unless waived by the Board of Directors. If you have

been educated outside of Canada, your qualifications need to be assessed to ensure that they meet Canadian equivalency.

2. **Technical Agrologist (T.Ag.):** Is a person working in agriculture, agri-food or the agri-life science sectors, and has a diploma in agrology or related science from an accredited Canadian college or university. If you have been educated outside of Canada, your qualifications need to be assessed to ensure that they meet Canadian equivalency.
3. **Articling Agrologist (A.Ag.):** Most P.Ag. and T.Ag. applicants will be required to complete an articling program of approximately one to two years prior to registration as a licensed professional. Those with limited professional experience or domestic experience participate in the Articling Agrologist program. This mentoring program provides an introduction to the OIA, professional development opportunities, and an appreciation for the responsibilities of a licensed Agrologist.

BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Ontario Institute of Agrologists brings many benefits, including opportunities

- For leadership development and mentoring;
- To update technical and professional skills;
- For exposure to a wide range of industry-related issues;
- To network with peers across Ontario and Canada;
- To discuss issues with key people in the industry;
- To attend seminars and meetings;
- To develop organizational skills; and
- To raise the profile of the role of agriculture with the public

Responsibilities of a Designated Agrologist include.....

- Maintaining high standards of competence, integrity and ethics in the agricultural profession;
- Speaking out on agricultural issues through reports, meetings and media contacts;
- Consulting with government, agri-business and other Agrologists based on the strength of your standing as a Designated Agrologist;
- Reaching out beyond the organization to assist and collaborate with other groups for the betterment of agriculture and society;
- Abide by the OIA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice;
- Mentor an Articling Agrologist; and
- Contribute to the image of Professional Agrologists as vital components of the Ontario agri-food, agri-life science and agriculture sector.

“Agriculture is a basic industry. The production of safe and nutritious food is essential to the development of society. Membership in OIA provides a strong base to participate in this dynamic industry.”

*Donald R. Good, P.Ag. LLB
Past President, Ontario Institute of Agrologists*

For more information on becoming a designated Agrologist, contact:

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Registrar
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