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Earth scientists at SFU take top posts

Jun 12, 2002

Two SFU professors have been appointed presidents of national organizations that advise governments and industries on the development of geoscience policy in Canada. Earth sciences professors Doug Stead and John Clague are respectively the newly appointed presidents of the Canadian Geoscience Council (CGC) and the Geological Association of Canada (GAC). Commenting on the rarity of the event, the CGC's outgoing president Jeremy Hall says, "It's been at least 10 years, if ever, since the presidents of both organizations were from the same university." The GAC is the national voice of geology in Canada, advising government and industry on geoscience matters and promoting the value of Earth Sciences to students, teachers and the general public. The CGC is a national umbrella group, coordinating the activities of 17 geoscience organizations, including the GAC. Both Stead and Clague are internationally recognized in their fields. An engineering geologist from Britain and the Forest Renewal BC. Chair at SFU, Stead will focus on building the CGC's reputation as a source of independent advice and information on national geoscience issues. Clague cites one of his key goals as getting earth scientists more involved in the public policy arena. The SFU Shrum Chair and emeritus scientist at the Geological Survey of Canada is widely consulted by governments, industry and media about natural hazards, especially earthquakes. Clague recently received the Royal Society of Canada's Bancroft Award. The \$2,500 prize is awarded for outstanding instruction and research in geology.