



Institute on  
Governance

LEADING EXPERTISE

Institut sur  
la gouvernance

EXPERTISE DE POINTE

## Public Sector Governance

### Ensuring Good Governance

Public governance is about the broader governance ecosystem of a society. It is the examination of the role of institutions, citizens, civil society, norms, and processes that affect societal priority setting and service delivery. Our work in this area involves studying current trends, analyzing root causes, predicting emerging influences and advising practitioners on a principled path forward.

## Recent Experience

### Treasury Board Secretariat – Ontario

We have been working with the Government of Ontario to improve transparency, accountability and oversight in classified and non-classified agencies of the public sector since 2010. We have supported the Ontario Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) in fostering stewardship in its board-governed agencies by leading in the development of a new training system. We designed a comprehensive curriculum with TBS guidance, and are delivering this training in 2014 and 2015 to new Board appointees, chairs of board-governed agencies and senior ministerial staff.

### Industry Canada

We undertook a project with Industry Canada in 2013 examining roles involved in leading and supporting portfolio stewardship by Ministers and Deputy Ministers under the Government of Canada. We conducted a structural assessment of the Industry Canada portfolio and its constituent organizations to better address board alignment with the government's agenda, robust communications, coordinated support for the Minister's accountability and the need to support policy and operational coherence. We systematically examined the Industry portfolio and, through tools developed via our research, measured precisely the nature and extent of their autonomy from the Minister of Industry.

### Elections Canada

We provided services to assist in reviewing, assessing and framing the work of Elections Canada over an eight-month project in the context of the newly introduced comprehensive electoral reform Bill in 2013. Our work included establishing an Elections Canada Advisory Board and filling it with eminent Canadians. We established the board in October 2013 to help the Chief Electoral Officer better serve Canadians, strengthen his role as the guardian of Canada's democracy, and to provide him with mandate specific advice on an ongoing basis.



## Our advisory work addresses your specific needs

Our approach takes account of your particular objectives, history, stakeholders, personalities and culture and is underpinned by our extensive research in all areas of governance. We can help your public sector organization by:

- Evaluating the effectiveness of your governance systems by conducting governance assessments that address their complexity and resolve any conflicting interests
- Conducting policy research, bolstering your policy capacity and providing strategic advice
- Designing and facilitating multistakeholder meetings to suit your unique needs
- Supporting strategy development and strategic planning through in-depth analysis and expert facilitation
- Helping you better understand the unique challenges of distributed governance as more power and responsibilities are distributed out among the broader public sector
- Conducting customized training, facilitation and moderated workshops and retreats
- Determining the most effective division of responsibilities between elected and appointed officials in your department, agency or board

## Our Virtuous Circle

Our leading expertise is rooted in the balanced growth of our research, advisory and learning activities. This "virtuous circle" means that you benefit from a strong applied research focus that strengthens our ability to provide advisory services and informs our learning products; advisory services that shape our research and leverage our learning programs; and learning products that are based on evidence and experience.

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