



Governing in the Public Sector:

A Guide for Province of Nova Scotia Government Agencies

Overview

- Background
- Highlights of the 2011 edition
- New content
- Orientation programs and director training
- Governance and Accountability Initiatives for 2011-2014
- Comments / Questions

Background

- *Governing in the Public Sector: A Guide for Province of Nova Scotia Government Agencies* was first published in 2007
- It was designed to be incorporated into orientation programs provided to agency directors
- It sets out government's key expectations for boards of directors in respect to the governance and accountability of agencies
- Legislative and organizational changes made updates necessary

Highlights of the 2011 edition

- Topics addressed include:
 - What is a government agency?
 - How appointments are made
 - Key elements of governance and accountability
 - Role of the responsible Minister
 - Roles of the Board and Chair
 - Duties of individual Directors
 - Role of the CEO / Management
 - Key Relationships
 - Communications

Highlights of the 2011 edition

- The Guide also includes:
 - a list of reference materials
 - a current list of all Nova Scotia government agencies
 - a glossary of terms
 - an overview of key statutes and policy manuals applicable to government agencies
 - a list of organizations that deal with governance issues in Canada and overseas

New content

- a section focusing on the role of the chair
- text highlighting the board's responsibility to ensure directors receive comprehensive orientations
- text highlighting the duty of directors to avoid situations in which their fiduciary duties to their agencies conflict with their duties to employers or other corporations or entities of which they are members

New content

- descriptions of the *Conflict of Interest Act*, the *Public Procurement Act*, and the *Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act*
- updated web addresses
- updated references and terminology reflecting legislative and organizational changes

Orientation programs and director training

Why is consistent director orientation and training important?

- 55 government agencies account for a significant proportion of the provincial budget and are consolidated in the Province's financial statements
- Agencies are very different from one another, but some information is important for all
- Directors have different levels of public sector board experience

Orientation programs and director training

Who's responsible?

- Generally, boards take the lead in ensuring their members receive appropriate training and orientation
- Corporate support is provided by ECO through board presentations, the Guide, and meetings such as this one
- Departments should be asked to participate

Comments/Questions?

Janice L Brown

Senior Corporate Policy Analyst

Executive Council Office

(902) 424-5463

brownjs@gov.ns.ca

http://www.gov.ns.ca/exec_council/abc/