

**Board Use of Information
Survey of Corporate Representatives for Public Sector Agency Boards in B.C.**

About the Survey - ONLINE INTRODUCTION

The Auditor General of British Columbia is conducting a survey of corporate representatives and board members of public sector organizations in B.C. You may have recently received an email inviting your participation in this research project. R. A. Malatest & Associates Ltd., a professional research company, is administering the survey on behalf of the Auditor General.

You have been selected to participate in this survey as you are employed by a B.C. public sector organization and your responsibilities include providing information to the board. The Auditor General is seeking the views of the senior management-level employee responsible for providing information and support to the organization's governing board. The findings of the survey will assist the Auditor General in assessing current board information practices in the main sectors of provincial Crown agency (commercial and service delivery Crown agencies; advanced education; K-12 education; health). The findings will also provide a comparison against the survey conducted in 2009, to identify progress since that time. The Auditor General's guidelines for board use of information, published in 2009, are available at:

<http://www.bcauditor.com/pubs/2009/report6/board-use-information>.

The information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and protected by provincial privacy legislation. However, we will ask your permission at the end of the survey to provide your final qualitative comment to your organization anonymously. This is voluntary and optional, and will not affect the rest of your survey responses in any way. The survey will take about 5 minutes to complete.

If you require more information about the study, please contact:

R. A. Malatest & Associates 858 Pandora Ave. Victoria, British Columbia V8W 1P4	250-384-2770 (Victoria) 1-800-665-5848 (toll free)
Or	1-888-384-2774 (toll free fax)
Office of the Auditor General 8 Bastion Square Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4	250-419-6000 (Victoria)

Section A. Introduction

A1. What type of government agency or Crown Corporation do you work for?

- Commercial Crown Corporation (e.g., BC Hydro)
- Service Delivery Agency (e.g., Community Living BC)
- Health Sector Agency (e.g., health authority)
- Education Sector Agency (e.g., school district)
- Advanced Education Agency (e.g., university)
- Advanced Education Agency (e.g., college or institute)
- Other public sector board [please specify] _____

A2. Please indicate the employment position you hold in the organization.

- Chief Executive Officer/President <<Skip to **A4**>>
- University President <<Skip to **A4**>>
- College President <<Skip to **A4**>>
- School District Superintendent <<Skip to **A4**>>
- Chief Financial Officer <<Skip to **A4**>>
- School District Secretary Treasurer
- Corporate Secretary (specific function) [Please specify] _____
- Other [Please specify] _____

A3. <<ASK IF **A2=6,7 OR 8**>> In your position with the organization, are you expected to attend all meetings of the board?

- Yes
- No [please explain] _____

A4. Within your organization, how much of the information given to the board is provided by you?

- All
- Most
- Half
- Some
- None

A5. How long have you been in your current position?

- 0-2 years
- 3-4 years
- 5-9 years
- 10+ years

Section B. The provision and quality of information to board members

B1. The following statements are to gain a better understanding of the information uses and needs of public sector boards.

Thinking about your position with <<ORGANIZATION>>:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree, please indicate your agreement with the following statements.

Statement	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neutral	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree	Don't Know
a. The board effectively communicates to management what information they need.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Information provided to the board is tailored to the needs of board members (e.g., quarterly financial reports, performance reports).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Management informs the board of any <u>limitations</u> on the information that it provides (e.g., estimates).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Management informs the board of any <u>problems</u> it may have in providing certain types of information (e.g., data availability).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Management ensures that the information it provides the board has been validated through internal/ external audit or other means when necessary.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Management assists the board with the interpretation of the information it provides, as requested by the board.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Information provided to the board is regularly used in their decision-making process.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Management uses formal documentation prescribed by the board for information packages where decisions are being requested.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Members of the board and management periodically discuss the board's information needs and management's requirements to meet them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. The board chair only requests information that is needed for the board to discharge its responsibilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Section C. Closing

C1. Please provide any further comment regarding information provision by your organization's management team and/or information use by board members.

Yes.

No further comments

C2. <<ASK IF C1=Answered>> Do you agree to share your comments, un-attributable to you, to your organization?

Yes

No

**That completes the survey!
Thank you very much for taking the time to participate.**