

Public Sector Board Use of Information in British Columbia 2012



Progress Update Since 2009



OFFICE OF THE
Auditor General
of British Columbia

About Our Office

- The Auditor General is the independent auditor of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
- Reports to the Legislative Assembly, not to the government of the day
- Conducts both financial audits and performance (or “value for money”) audits



Importance of Board Information

- Crown agencies deliver key services to citizens
- Board members need to receive information that is correct, reliable, accessible, up-to-date and understandable
- Boards must:
 1. Know what information they need;
 2. Have access to the information;
 3. Have high quality information;
 4. Understand the information;
 5. Use the information in decision-making; and
 6. Evaluate the quality and quantity of information they receive



Our Board Use of Information Survey

- Survey administered in May 2009 and October 2012
- Board members, chairs and corporate representatives of Crown agencies with boards invited
- Results were analyzed by sector, with 6 sectors identified:
 - Commercial Crowns
 - Service delivery Crowns
 - Health organizations (authorities and hospitals)
 - Education
 - K-12
 - Colleges & institutes
 - Universities



Key Findings

- High level of governance engagement by public sector board members
- Overall, improvement in all key good practice areas except one
- Gaps in good information practices can have a cumulative impact
- The gap between sectors has narrowed



Findings – cont'd

- Differences remain between corporate representatives and board members on good information practices
- First-year board members are less confident about the information they receive
- Board members are open to continuous improvement in board information practices



Follow-up

- It is important to ensure continuous monitoring of governance practices
- OAG maintains an interest in governance and will revisit regularly.



Further Resources

Visit www.bcauditor.com to:

- read the full report
- subscribe to our e-notification service and be notified when we release a report
- see our “Work in Progress”
- learn more about the Office
- provide your feedback on this report and/or suggestions for further audits

