



# Board of Governors Policy

<b>POLICY TYPE:</b>	<b>Governance Process</b>	<b>NUMBER:</b>	<b>GP1</b>
<b>POLICY TITLE:</b>	<b>Principles of Governance</b>		
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	<b>March 11, 2021</b>	<b>REVISION DATE:</b>	<b>NEW</b>
<b>RENEWAL DATE:</b>	<b>March 2023</b>		

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Board of Governors oversees the direction and management of a College so that it carries out its mandate and objectives effectively. Under the Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Act, the objects of the Colleges is to offer a comprehensive program of career-oriented, post-secondary education and training to assist individuals in finding and keeping employment, to meet the needs of employers and the changing work environment, and to support the economic and social development of local and diverse communities.
- 1.2. According to the Ministry's Binding Policy Directive on Governance and Accountability, the board of governors of a college is to govern effectively and is accountable to the citizens of Ontario for the successful achievement of its mandate. Good governance requires that policies, processes, and structures be put in place to promote effective operation of the college and to allow it to fulfill its mandate and meet its objectives. Essential elements include organizational integrity, financial management, communication with stakeholders and clients, collecting and reporting of information, and good management practices.

## 2. POLICY STATEMENTS

It is believed that following well-accepted principles of good governance reduces risk and generates greater long-term value for the institution and its stakeholders.

- 2.1. The Board of Governors has adopted a policy governance approach to governance of the College with an emphasis on:
  - outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation,
  - encouragement of diversity in viewpoints,
  - strategic leadership more than administrative detail,
  - clear distinction of Board and chief executive roles,
  - collective rather than individual decisions,
  - future rather than past or present, and
  - proactivity rather than reactivity.

The Board will direct, control, and inspire the organization through the careful establishment of policies reflecting the Boards' values and perspectives.

- 2.2. The Board of Governors is accountable to the students, employers, and communities the College serves by ensuring the College is effectively and appropriately managed to achieve its established mandate and to provide needed services.

The Board of Governors will set the College vision, strategic direction, and overall goals and outcomes of the College within the context of appropriate laws, government policy, and local need.

Board members are obligated to know what the owners want and need. The Board shall gather data and input that reflects the diversity of the ownership through community meetings, surveys and working with other organizations to enhance its role as owner representatives in determining the most appropriate Ends.

Board members will ensure that they maintain a distinction between their personal interests and their obligation to speak for others as a representative of the moral ownership as a whole.

- 2.3. The Board of Governors will establish, observe and monitor governance structures to enable the achievement of expected institutional outcomes with clear lines of communication and internal accountability.
- 2.4. The Board of Governors will provide training and resources to ensure each Governor develops an understanding of the College's vision, mission and values, mandate and policy governance approach.
- 2.5. The Board of Governors will make governance training available to each Governor through the College Centre of Board Excellence and other professional development opportunities as they arise.
- 2.6. The Board will cultivate a sense of group responsibility and will be responsible for governing excellence
- 2.7. The Board of Governors will meet regularly and will conduct its meeting in accordance with the by-laws of the College.
- 2.8. The Board shall ensure that the College's interests are represented to governments and government agencies.
- 2.9. There will be adequate funding in the budget for the Board to support recruitment, orientation, training, outreach, and administrative costs in order to govern with excellence.

- 2.10 In the event for Board appointments to other organizations, the Board will assess whether such representation is appropriate within the Board's stated policies and current priorities.

**3. MONITORING**

- 3.1. The Board of Governors will approve the College's strategic plan, annual business plan, budget and annual report.
- 3.2. The Board of Governors will review performance measures, including the results of the Provincial key performance indicator survey.
- 3.3. The Board of Governors will ensure compliance with the 'Executive Limitations' policies, through the annual compliance report from the President.

**4. RELATED LEGISLATION**

- 4.1 Minister's Binding Policy Directives and other documents
- 4.2 Confederation College By-law No. 1
- 4.3 Ministry's Binding Policy Directive – Governance and Accountability