

Becoming Involved with a Board...

...can be a very rewarding experience!

Adapted from a presentation on Board Governance lead by Judy Murphy, President and CEO Manitoba Safety Services, Nov 2013.

After making the decision to become involved on a board, remember to *follow your passion* and 'Be Bold!' This will lead you to exciting opportunities that feed your interests.

You have a lot to contribute – understand what that is and position your brand. Soak up everything from the entire Board experience.

Guaranteed: Through your participation on a board you will learn more than you contribute.

How do I know what board is right for me?

Start by asking questions. Here are some for you to ask:

- What type of governing style does the board use?
- What are their expectations? (Most importantly, what are your expectations?)
- Do you expect to roll up your sleeves and fundraise, budget, volunteer or would you rather stay at 30,000 feet?
- Have there been scandals and issues with the organization? Are they resolved or do you feel that your integrity could be damaged in anyway?
- Does the board carry the appropriate Directors & Officers Liability insurance?

** Make sure you are on a board that operates in a way that meets your expectations and style.

How do you find a board to join?

Most people begin on boards by following their passion. Start with a community club, daycare, sport or association board or a board related to the work you are involved in.

Join the *Institute of Corporate Directors*: attend the lunches, learn from the resources on their website and register with them as a potential director. **Network:** Let people know that you are interested in serving on a board.

Top 5 Things a CEO/Executive Director wants from a Board Member:

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| 5. | Be an ambassador for the organization. | ✓ Help create a positive 'buzz' about the organization. |
| | | ✓ Leverage your network. |
| 4. | Come prepared. | ✓ Do your homework. |
| | | ✓ Give honest feedback. |
| 3. | Understand and embrace your role. | ✓ Buy into the group process. |
| | | ✓ Become a student of governance. |
| | | ✓ Think strategically and critically. |
| 2. | Live at 30,000 feet. | ✓ Ask about risk, financial statements |
| | | ✓ How do the CEO's initiatives fit with the organizations' agreed upon direction. |
| 1. | Ask the tough questions. | |