

Board: Effective Governance

[Convincing ourselves we're worth it - investing in capacity](#)

Blog
[Maria Turnbull](#)
July 2, 2019
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Forget about the funders – convince yourself first you're worth investing in.

There's a lot of conversation in our sector about changing the current funding paradigm that is seen as short-term, project-related, and restrictive. Important blog posts like [The Ethical Argument for General Operating Funds](#) take a stab at changing the narrative within the funding community. Here at Vantage Point, we took up the conversation through our podcast on the topic [The overhead myth: Let's end it once and for all!](#)

I can understand the focus of getting buy-in from funders. We are incensed that most funding...

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[Maintaining your status as a society in BC](#)

Blog
[Mark Friesen](#)
June 7, 2019
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The new and updated Societies Act came into effect November 28, 2016 and governs how societies (not-for-profit organizations) are created and run in B.C. The new Act provides clarity, additional flexibility, and some new obligations for societies in areas such as record keeping, director requirements, and membership rules for different types of societies (ordinary societies and member-funded societies).

As part of the transition to the new Act, every not-for-profit society in BC was required to file a Transition Application by November 28, 2018.

We were curious about what could happen to...

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[Plotting a Path for Your Working Board](#)

Blog
[Mark Friesen](#)
May 1, 2019
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One of our most popular blogs to date describes governance vs. operational boards. So we decided to revisit this topic.

Close to half of all not-for-profit organizations in BC consist of teams that are not compensated financially; all activities are carried out by board members and/or volunteers. When this is the case, board members will have a direct role to play in supporting the work of the organization. Since a large number of community groups are structured this way, statistically speaking, if you're on the board of a not-for-profit in BC, chances are it's a working board.

And if you are...

[Read more about Plotting a Path for Your Working Board](#)

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[Looking at Governance from an Indigenous Perspective](#)

Blog

[Kinwa Bluesky](#)

June 4, 2018

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In celebration of National Indigenous History Month, Vantage Point reached out to a governance expert for her thoughts about not-for-profits and Indigenous governance. Kinwa works as a consultant to organizations and leaders in the areas of strategic planning, organizational development, fundraising, and project management. She is also a legal researcher, policy advisor, human resource consultant, and contract manager. Kinwa is a doctoral student at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law. It is an honour to have her share her thoughts with us.

[Read more about Looking at Governance from an Indigenous Perspective](#)

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[Introducing Alison Brewin](#)

Blog

[Alison Brewin](#)

May 1, 2018

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Alison Brewin has joined us as the next Executive Director of Vantage Point. To get to know Alison a bit better - we have compiled a series of questions to learn everything from her favorite books to her life motto.

Welcome to Alison, we are glad to have you on Vantage Point team!

How would you describe your leadership approach/philosophy?

Leadership is about giving hope - hope that we can succeed, hope that complex problems can be solved, hope that the world is a grand place where most people want to do the right thing. It is also about following through on promises made. I am an empathetic...

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[Beyond Oversight and Towards Impact: Values Based Governance](#)

Blog

[Mark Friesen](#)

April 17, 2018

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Serving on a board should be fun and engaging. At Vantage Point we're passionate advocates for governance that goes beyond oversight. With a focus on impact, there are some great practices organizations can use to support meaningful governance. In our work we often come across organizations that have developed or adopted unique governance practices that are aligned with their values.

[Read more about Beyond Oversight and Towards Impact: Values Based Governance](#)
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[Let's reimagine the way we think about not-for-profit governance](#)

Blog
[Pat Evans](#)
April 12, 2018
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For those of us who work with not-for-profit sector organizations and their governing bodies, the same issues in not-for-profit governance seem to keep coming up year after year. That insight has caused a thoughtful sector leader to ask: "why are we doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results?"

[Read more about Let's reimagine the way we think about not-for-profit governance](#)
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[Moving Strategy Forward During Leadership Transition: Good or Bad Idea?](#)

Blog
[Rebecca Schalm](#)
January 17, 2018
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Earlier this year, the Vantage Point board confronted a challenge many organizations face: should we press forward with renewing our strategic plan, or should we hit the pause button until we have a new executive director in place? With Denise's planned retirement on the horizon, it would have been easy for us to hit pause. After all, wouldn't we want to wait and involve a new executive director in developing the next phase of Vantage Point's future? And, more practically, we were already going to be dealing with an executive director succession process, did we really need to add strategic planning to our agenda?

[Read more about Moving Strategy Forward During Leadership Transition: Good or Bad Idea?](#)
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[Welcome to BOSS 2017: Transforming Not-for-Profit Leadership](#)

Blog
[Denise Baker](#)
November 1, 2017
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Good morning everyone! Welcome to BOSS 2017! I am so delighted to see you all here at our 3rd annual BOSS conference: Building Organizational & Sector Sustainability.

Look at all the talent in this room. More importantly - look at all the *potential* in this room! Imagine what our organizations can accomplish if each of us had the opportunity to more fully develop our leadership. I'll suggest this - improved stakeholder engagement, better staff engagement and retention, superior program outcomes, and increased financial sustainability. Ultimately, we would create stronger, healthier communities.

And what is what is required to unleash all this potential? Investment in time – we are busy and have multiple pressures and priorities. Investment in money – we are reluctant to spend money outside of critical programs or on overhead. Investment in commitment – to ongoing coaching and support and encouragement of each other. But if we made this investment, imagine what this will make possible for our sector?

[Read more about Welcome to BOSS 2017: Transforming Not-for-Profit Leadership](#)
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[Governance Unplugged: Beyond Oversight](#)

Blog

[Mark Friesen](#)

October 23, 2017

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More and more, BC not-for-profit organizations are looking to make a greater impact through their boards. Some groups want to go beyond the typical governance practices - such as monthly meetings, Robert's Rules of Order, and the implied expectation that directors are fiscal managers. Recently, a group reached out to Vantage Point to ask how they could support and reflect indigenous cultural practices at the board level. There is also a rising awareness to support and reflect the diversity of our communities in our boards.

[Read more about Governance Unplugged: Beyond Oversight](#)
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Pages

[1](#)

[2](#)

[3](#)

[next >](#)

[last »](#)