

Appendix A: Governance Check-In

BACKGROUND

Good governance and a high-functioning Board are essential to the success of the CRD. The Board plays a critical role in setting strategy and policy, and providing accountability and leadership across regional, sub-regional and local service delivery.

In short, a governance check-in offers an opportunity for the Board to consider how effective they are at governing the organization and making decisions that direct the work of the organization in alignment with the Corporate Plan, Mission, and Board and Organizational Visions.

PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

The governance check-in could consist of a facilitated discussion that could centre around a few questions, such as:

1. Are the roles and responsibilities of Directors and staff clear?
2. Does the Board receive sufficient information to make informed and timely strategic decisions, provide strong policy direction, fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities, and provide effective oversight?
3. Do the Board's approved policies, procedures and proceedings adequately support the Board's operation?
4. Is the conduct of Directors supporting good Board governance, including actively preparing for and participating in meetings, promoting open dialogue and interacting respectfully?
5. Are there any specific areas where Directors would like more training or support that would enhance the Board's effectiveness?

In other words, the governance check-in is a chance to collaboratively identify what's working well, what's not, and any obstacles to effective governance. It is an opportunity to collaboratively surface these points and collectively agree on how to enhance the Board's overall effectiveness.

IMPLICATIONS

Service Delivery Implications

As the current Board term nears its conclusion, staff recommend initiating this discussion within a broader reflection on lessons learned and recommendations for future priorities for the incoming Board. This conversation typically occurs in the spring of the final year of the Board term.

Beyond this, staff suggest incorporating future governance check-ins into the annual Board strategic check-in, typically held in April or May. This would provide a consistent forum for reviewing governance practices.

Financial Implications

The proposed approach may involve modest costs associated with engaging a professional facilitator to support the discussions. These costs are expected to be minimal and can be absorbed within existing core budgets.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff to plan the first governance check-in for spring 2026.