



NEIL PUDDICOMBE

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2018 Governance Professional of the Year

Fun fact:

*Where can you find me on a Saturday night in the summer?
BMO Field - TFC supporters' section (with my shirt on)*

Why have you joined GPC?

I was new to governance when I joined GPC. I was looking for a forum to learn about best practices and discuss common issues. I found this at GPC. GPC has something for everyone - those new to the area and those who have been practicing for a while. The organization is dynamic and inclusive. It supports a wide range of job functions within the governance space. It includes people involved in the daily support of Boards, those who design the governance programs and processes for their organizations, and those who monitor, analyze and report on matters that help the Directors perform their oversight responsibilities.

How did you get into governance?

To be perfectly honest, I fell into it. I was senior legal counsel to the Bank's Capital Markets' business. My boss, Barbara Muir, was offered the role of Corporate Secretary and asked if I would like to join her as Assistant Corporate Secretary. When you have the world's best boss (sorry Michael Scott!) you stay with her. It's turned out to be a good decision!

What advice would you share with a fellow governance professional?

I would tell them the same thing that I tell my team. The administrative part of the role is important. You need to have an acute attention to detail, superior organizational skill, strong communication skills and a bit of thick skin. However, the role is evolving beyond pure administration and governance professionals need to adapt. You have an opportunity to play an important role as the governance advisor to the Board. To do this you need to know the domestic and international corporate governance frameworks, the local corporate and securities laws and industry best practice, and know how to apply these to your organization.