

Governance Challenges at Mountain Equipment Co-op

Shona McGlashan

Chief Governance Officer, Mountain Equipment Co-op

Is the democratic structure of a co-op an advantage or a disadvantage when it comes to governance? Are board recommendations best practice, or can they sometimes be seen as against the co-operative ethos? Are co-op governance structures failing members?

Join Shona McGlashan as she outlines how MEC reconciles the tensions between the co-op governance structure and the needs of a dynamic, growing business in a competitive world. Exploring the practices of other co-ops in North America and overseas, the presentation will pose provocative questions and consider innovative solutions.



As chief governance officer at MEC, Canada's leading outdoor retailer, Shona McGlashan oversees the co-op's elections, reporting, co-op engagement, and issues management portfolios. She is also a director of the Canadian Cancer Society, BC/Yukon, and a member of the City of Vancouver's election task force. Shona holds a BSc (Hons) in mathematics from the University of Manchester. Her varied career has included senior governance and policy roles on both sides of the Atlantic. She served previously as executive director of the Vancouver Police Board and, before emigrating to Canada, as a clerk in the UK Parliament, providing professional and procedural support for committees of MPs and the House of Commons Commission. The more unusual highlights of her career include accompanying MPs on helicopters, submarines, and tanks, and patrolling Vancouver's Burrard Inlet in a police boat.

Wednesday, 16 November 2016, 11:30am – 12:30 pm
Prairie Room, Diefenbaker Building, U of S Campus

Live-stream link at <http://usaskstudies.coop/news-and-events/seminar-series.php>

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