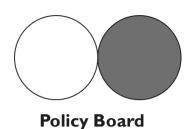


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## **Board Governance Model - Policy Board**

The Board of The Canadian Medical Hall of Fame has adopted a Policy Board governance model by which it will conduct all its activities using a *Governance as Leadership* Approach.





These two circles demonstrate the close relationship the Board Chair and the Executive Director share.

A Policy Board governance model is described as follows:

- A partnership is developed between the Board Chair and the Executive Director in order to lead and manage the organization
- A series of committees do the work of the Board and these are usually supported by staff
- Responsibilities include: establish and implement the organization's purpose, set the rate of progress the organization will undertake in achieving its mission, provide continuity for the governance and management of the organization's affairs, confirm the organization's identity within the community.

This allows for the CMHF Board to have the following committees to ensure the Executive Director is well supported:

- Executive
- Finance
- Fund Development
- Scholarship
- Other committees and task forces as needed

## Fiduciary

- Ensures that the organization's assets especially tangible assets are conserved and optimized to promote the organization's mission.
- Ensures resources are used effectively in service of the mission
- Promotes lawful and ethical behaviour
- Serves the interests of the organization not self-interest

## Strategic

- Holds a dual perspective ("inside out" and "outside in")
- Aligns internal strengths and weaknesses with external opportunities and threats
- Asks: What business are we in? What do our clients want? Where do we have comparative advantage? What are our core competencies? What do you think about the organization's future?
- Works with management to discover strategic priorities and drivers based on data from multiple sources

## **Generative Thinking**

- Produces a sense of what knowledge, information and data mean which is both powerful and necessary for governing
- Tries to make sense of all kinds of information
  "messes/messiness"
- Demands a fusion of thinking not a division of labour

Source: Chait Richard, William Ryan, and Barbara Taylor, Governance as Leadership: Reframing the Work of Nonprofit Boards. Board Source, 2005