

November 2024

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **1. CREATION**

The Board of Directors of the Bank of Canada (the “Board”) is established pursuant to Section 5 of the *Bank of Canada Act* (the “Act”).

### **2. MEMBERS**

The membership of the Board is determined by Section 5 and Section 9 of the Act.

### **3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Bank of Canada (the “Bank”) is established under the Act. The Act also establishes the various businesses in which the Bank shall engage. Subsection (5)1 of the Act provides that “The Bank shall be under the management of a Board of Directors...”. The Act also provides in Subsection (8)1 that “The Governor of the Bank is the chief executive officer of the Bank and on behalf of the Board has the direction and control of the business of the Bank with authority to act in connection with the conduct of the business of the Bank in all matters that are not by this Act or by the by-laws of the Bank specifically reserved to be done by the Board or by the Executive Committee”.

It follows from these two sections that the Board has certain specific powers, set out in the Act, that fall outside the authority of the Governor while the Governor has authority to act in all other businesses of the Bank. These businesses include the formulation and implementation of monetary policy, the provision of fiscal agent services to the government, the issue of currency and the provision of liquidity to the financial system. The powers reserved by the Act for the Board relate chiefly to the direction of the internal financial management and administration of the Bank and include policies with regard to staff, budget matters, internal practices, accounting and the operation of the Board. The Board and the Governor work in close cooperation in all matters since the control of financial and administrative matters by the Board may impinge on the ability of the Governor to conduct a certain business of the Bank, and vice versa.

In addition to its specific powers, the Board also has a general interest in all aspects of the Bank's management. In areas which fall under the authority of the Governor, this interest takes the form of oversight and advice. The Board exercises such oversight in part in order to assess management and to ensure that it is performing competently. This oversight also provides an opportunity for the Board to reflect its view of the public interest in advising the Governor as to how the Bank can best fulfil its responsibilities.

In particular, and without limiting the foregoing, through the various committees the Board exercises responsibility in the following areas:

### **3.1 Appointment of Senior Management**

- (a) Pursuant to Section 6 of the Act, the Board appoints the Governor and Senior Deputy Governor with the approval of the Governor in Council and approves their terms of employment.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 7 of the Act, the Board approves the appointment and the terms of employment of Deputy Governors and terms of engagement of the non-executive Deputy Governors.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 15 of the Act and By-law 11, through the Human Resources and Compensation Committee and the Executive Committee, the Board has oversight of the appointment of the Chief Operating Officer, receives verbal updates at each Board meeting by the Senior Deputy Governor or Chief Human Resources Officer concerning promotions and other changes for senior officers of the Bank (SO1-SO3) and an annual report concerning talent management and employment matters.

### **3.2 Strategic Planning, Budget Approval, Stewardship and Risk**

- (a) The Board provides advice to management on the development of the Bank's Strategic Plan (Plan) including a discussion of the trends, risks and challenges that may help shape the Plan and the proposed strategic direction and priorities for the Bank. The Board approves the Plan and any significant changes to it.
- (b) The Board reviews the annual Progress and Performance Report with a view to monitor progress toward the achievement of the strategic objectives. This process also helps inform the annual management performance discussions. The Board comments on the performance of the Deputy Governors and the Chief Operating Officer to inform the performance ratings assigned by management. Once the ratings are finalized, management reports on them to the Board.
- (c) The Board reviews and comments on the Governor's Annual Report to the Minister.
- (d) The Board ensures that management has appropriate risk management arrangements in place to proactively monitor events or circumstances that could compromise the achievement of the strategic objectives. As needed, the Board engages with the Chief Risk Officer on new or emerging risks and throughout the year, discusses with senior management of each function, a more detailed briefing on the functions' business, their objectives and principal risks to these. The Board meets privately with the Chief Risk Officer at every Board meeting. Additional private meetings may be held as often as the Board deems necessary or at the request of the Chief Risk Officer.

### **3.3 Audit and Finance**

Having regard to the recommendations of the Audit and Finance Committee, the Board shall approve, if it deems to be appropriate:

- (a) The annual audited financial statements of the Bank.
- (b) The form of statement of accounts, pursuant to Section 35 of the Act.

- (c) The accounting principles and standards to be used in the presentation of the annual statement as required by By-Law 14.
- (d) The terms of engagement of the external auditors for the annual audit and review engagements of the financial statements of the Bank as well as the remuneration to be paid to the external auditors therefor.
- (e) The remuneration to be paid to the external auditors in respect of their annual audit for the statement of Government of Canada Debt Outstanding and for the Exchange Fund Account, and the schedule of Government of Canada's Canada Mortgage Bond Holdings and Income based on Management's approval of the audit plans and terms of engagement for such audits.
- (f) The scope, terms of engagement and remuneration to be paid to the external auditors for any special audit requests.
- (g) The annual budget for the Bank.

### **3.4 Other Human Resources and Compensation Matters**

Having regard to the recommendations of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee, the Board shall approve, if it deems to be appropriate:

- (a) The human resources policies, practices and organizational structures, all of which should provide consistency with the strategic plan, support operational effectiveness and efficiency, and maximize human resources potential.
- (b) The Bank's total compensation arrangements including but not limited to salary ranges and performance pay, annual salary range adjustments and review of market comparator groups, and employee retirement benefits including Pension Plan and Supplementary Pension Arrangement design.<sup>1</sup>
- (c) Management succession planning, management/leadership development, and talent management/workforce planning strategies, including as the foregoing relate to fostering an equitable, diverse and inclusive culture.
- (d) Termination and severance policies/arrangements.
- (e) The remuneration (within designated ranges established by Privy Council), benefits and other conditions of employment of the Governor and the Senior Deputy Governor.
- (f) Any report of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee for possible publication.

### **3.5 Pension Plan**

The Bank is both the sponsor and administrator of the Bank of Canada Pension Plan and the Supplementary Pension Arrangement (collectively, the "Plans"). The Board provides oversight of the Bank's activities in carrying out both of these roles and establishes such policies, procedures and strikes such committees as deemed necessary to exercise its oversight responsibilities. The Board's role in the governance of the Plans is set out in

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<sup>1</sup> Any amendments to the Pension Plan and the Supplementary Pension Arrangement that are required by applicable legislation or to give effect to pension benefits would be reviewed and recommended to the Board by the Pension Committee.

the *Bank of Canada Pension Governance Policy*, adopted by the Board on 22 September 2011, as amended from time to time.

### **3.6 Corporate Governance**

Having regard to the recommendations of the Corporate Governance Committee, the Board shall approve, if it deems to be appropriate:

- (a) The terms of reference of the Board, its committees and the Lead Director.
- (b) The composition of the committees of the Board.
- (c) The appointment of the Chair of each Board committee.
- (d) The process for evaluating Board effectiveness.
- (e) The Board profile.
- (f) The Board related policies, such as travel, expense and conflict of interest guidelines.
- (g) The remuneration and allowances of directors.
- (h) Governance documents relating to business conduct and ethics (i.e., *Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for Directors, Bank Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, etc.*)

### **3.7 Capital Projects**

On the advice of the Capital Projects Committee, the Board shall:

- (a) Receive and review reports on the status of Projects under oversight of the Capital Projects Committee.
- (b) Consider recommendations with respect to Projects under oversight of the Capital Projects Committee.
- (c) Approve, if it deems to be appropriate, the business case for any Project with a minimum total estimated cost in excess of \$100 million.

### **3.8 Lead Director**

According to the *Process for the Selection of Lead Director* attached to the *Lead Director Terms of Reference*, the Board formalizes the selection of the Lead Director by the directors appointed under Section 9 of the Act.

As outlined in the *Lead Director Terms of Reference*, inter alia, the Lead Director leads the process (which is established by the Corporate Governance Committee), for the Board's annual self-evaluation.

### **3.9 Ethical Values**

The Board ensures that policies are in place to ensure the corporation operates at all times within applicable laws and regulations and with due regard to ethical standards. This includes laws relating to employee health and safety, human rights and standards relating to conflicts of interest.

### **3.10 Oversight and Advice**

- (a) The Board informs itself on an ongoing basis regarding all significant activities of the Bank.
- (b) In activities which fall under the authority of the Governor, including monetary policy, the Board considers and evaluates the general manner in which they are conducted.
- (c) In such activities the Board may contribute advice, including its sense of the public interest, in regard to how the Bank can best fulfil its responsibilities.
- (d) The Board, utilizing the Corporate Governance Committee, shall periodically self-assess the value and effectiveness of its oversight and advisory contribution, including consideration as necessary of the adequacy of information and opportunity available to the Board for such purpose.

## **4. CHAIRPERSON**

Under the Act, Section 12, the Governor is Chairperson of the Board and in his absence, under Section 8, the Senior Deputy Governor acts as Chairperson.

## **5. MEETING**

The Board may determine the frequency and time of its meetings. By-law 1 provides for a minimum of four meetings per year. Board members may participate in a meeting of the Board by means of such telephonic, electronic or other communication facilities as permit all persons participating in the meeting to communicate adequately with each other, and a member participating in such a meeting by any such means is deemed to be present at that meeting.

## **6. QUORUM**

The Board may determine the quorum and the method for deciding resolutions. By-law 3 provides that a quorum shall be six directors appointed pursuant to Section 9 of the Act plus either the Governor or Senior Deputy Governor.

## **7. DECISIONS**

By-law 7 provides that the Board shall ensure that minutes are kept, recording the resolutions and proceedings of all meetings. Such records shall be kept in the custody of the Corporate Secretary of the Bank.