

## Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada & CCAF sponsor *Awards of Excellence for Public Reporting*

The Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada and CCAF are introducing an important Award in the federal public sector to recognize the pursuit of excellence in government departmental and agency public performance reports. In support of our continuing commitment to capacity development in public sector governance and performance reporting, CCAF is providing advocacy, support and assistance in the Award process and will host the Inaugural Award Ceremony at our upcoming National Conference in Ottawa in November.

The Award for Pursuit of Excellence in Departmental Performance Reports is a significant initiative. Designed to promote continuing improvement in reporting practices government-wide, the Awards underscores the Government's commitment to effective public performance reporting. All government departments and agencies are eligible for the Award which is being divided into two categories based on department size. Treasury Board Secretariat pre-screened over 80 departmental performance reports and selected a total of 16 reports – eight in each category – for a second screening process. Pre-screening was determined by the following questions: 1. Are the results commitments reasonable?; 2. Do the results commitments specify what Canadians are to receive from the department or agency in an enduring way?; 3. Does the report tell the reader what was achieved against the commitments?; 4. Is the report credible and balanced?

Treasury Board Secretariat then invited the participation of senior public servants from across government together with representatives from the House of Commons to form a task force to review the 16 reports and identify the best three in each category. The criteria used in this selection process was developed in collaboration with CCAF and has emerged in part from the Foundations research on public performance reporting. Those five criteria are:

- 1** Does the reader understand and appreciate the reasons for the department's/agency's existence? (Does the report help the reader to understand: what public purpose the organization serves, for who and why; its operating environment and how that environment has or might influence strategic choices).
- 2** Does the reader understand the 3 or 4 essential characteristics or features that allows the organization to succeed in pursuing its objectives?
- 3** Does the reader understand and appreciate what results the organization has achieved (Does the report help the reader to understand how: achievements compare to planned results, to past performance and to the performance of other similar organizations; shortcomings as well as achievements; and, what might be reasonable to expect in terms of future achievements).

- 4 Does the reader understand and appreciate the relationship between achievements (results) and investments (resources) (Does the report help the reader to understand: the kind and level of investment made; and, the appropriateness of the investments strategy pursued and value obtained).
- 5 Does the report contain significant, credible, readable and balanced information that will help Parliamentarians and Canadians determine the value of results.

The Awards process is now in its final stages. **J-P. Boisclair**, CCAF's President, is chairing a panel of judges to review the final six reports and elect a "winner" in each of the categories. Judges are: **Frank Claydon**, Secretary of the Treasury Board and Comptroller General of Canada; **Jack Davis**, President & CEO, Calgary Regional Health Authority#4 (former Secretary of the Executive Council of Alberta); **Denis Desautels**, Auditor General of Canada; **Courtney Pratt**, President & CEO, Hydro One Networks; and **Axel Thesberg**, Canadian Managing Partner, Assurance Centre & Professional Practice, KPMG.

The inaugural Award is being presented at the CCAF National Conference by the Secretary of the Treasury Board and Comptroller General of Canada, Frank Claydon, and Conference Co-Chair, in Ottawa on November 20-21.