



MARINA JAGBANDHANSINGH, GPC.D

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Fun fact:

I did a solo trip to Churchill, Manitoba to take part in a week long ultimate Churchill adventure. I spent every day in a tundra vehicle looking for polar bears, helicoptered in to view a vacant polar bear den (which I crawled into) and went dog sledding through the boreal forest.

Why have you joined GPC?

To be surrounded by like-minded professionals who think governance is cool! To share knowledge, experiences and develop a network of resources from different industries because when I started in this industry, I didn't have any of this. I am always interested in learning how other organizations are doing things and seeing if there is anything that I can bring back to my own organization that can add value.

Why do you think GPC is an important organization for any governance professional to belong to in Canada?

GPC is an important organization to belong to because it brings industry people together, provides education, best practices and resources. It is a well recognized, professional member organization. There really is no down side to becoming a member!

How did you get into governance and your current role?

It started out as a maternity leave which was a dual role with governance being one of the roles. I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to see if I liked governance and if I didn't, I could move on. At the end of the leave my current organization asked me to stay on and we developed the Governance Specialist role that the organization never had before.

What does governance mean to you?

Mirroring the qualities of a what I think is good governance on a daily basis accountable, transparent, responsive, inclusive and efficient.

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What do you believe is a key topic right now in the governance industry?

Many organizations continue to deal with the impacts of how the government handled COVID and its impacts to staff, shareholders etc. I think a key topic is if this happens again, will we be in a better position than we were the first time around.

Where do you see, or would like to see the role of governance in the next few years?

I would like to see a decoupling of the governance role from other roles. It truly is a role on its own and is way too important to be done off the side of your desk!

What is the most fulfilling part about your role in governance? What do you love most about your job?

The most fulfilling part about my role in governance is explaining what it is to people. I present a portion of the new staff orientation at my organization and people outside of governance often don't know what it means so it feels good to be able to explain it in a way that they can understand. What I love most about my job is that I am always learning something new.

What is the best career advice you can provide?

I had a mentor that once told me to truly know your organization spend time reviewing its Strategic Plan, Business Plan and Mission, Vision, Values so that you understand how you and others around you contribute to the organization's objectives. I've taken this advice to heart and is the first place I start when I want to learn about any organization. It speaks a lot about an organization if they have made this information easy to locate on their website.