
Foreword

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Biographical notes: Dr. Chris Bart is North America's leading expert on helping organisations develop *mission and vision statements* that get results. He is the author of the Canadian business #1 best seller, *A Tale of Two Employees and the Person Who Wanted to Lead Them*, as well as the CICA publication, *20 Questions for Directors about Strategy*. He has also published over 50 other articles, cases and reviews. Dr. Bart is currently a Professor of Business Strategy and Governance at the DeGroote School of Business, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario and a principal with Corporate Missions Inc. (www.corporatemissionsinc.com). In 2003, he helped found The Directors College, Canada's first and only university-accredited Director Education Programme and was named its Principal and Lead Professor. A highly regarded lecturer, Dr. Bart holds the record number of teaching awards at the DeGroote School of Business – including the President's Award for Teaching Excellence. Over the years, Dr. Bart has been invited to lecture at numerous prestigious institutions throughout the world. He has also received many academic awards and honours. Among his other qualifications, Dr. Bart is a Chartered Accountant. He is listed in *Canadian WHO'S WHO*, *Who's Who in Canadian Business*, and the *International Who's Who of Professionals*.

The importance of governance continues to grow unabated in the year 2006.

While there are still many organisations issuing proclamations of so-called best practices in governance, few of these are rooted in any empirical research designed to separate good versus bad practices based on some performance criteria.

The papers presented in this special edition represent a selection of the best papers that were presented at the *3rd McMaster World Congress on Corporate Governance* which was hosted by the DeGroote School of Business at McMaster University and The Directors College – both located in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. These papers are unique in their content and format in that they attempt to bridge the gap between academics' need for theoretical advancement and practitioners' thirst for practical improvements to the governance dilemma.

I hope that you enjoy this special edition and that you will consider submitting a paper for presentation at a future *McMaster World Congress on Corporate Governance*.