

William A. Black

Underscored by his recent appointment to the Order of Canada, William A. Black is a distinguished Canadian, combining a successful business career with a lifelong commitment to public and community service.

Graduating from Dalhousie University in 1970, Black completed his actuarial training (FSA, FCIA) in 1974. Black spent his entire business career with Maritime Life and was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer in 1995. In his nine years leading this national insurance company, he worked with staff in every province of Canada, growing the business organically and through four successful acquisitions. By 2004, the company had a staff of 3,000 in offices across the country and \$15 billion in assets under management. Under his leadership, Maritime Life made a strong commitment to both customers and employees. The company gained a reputation for employee relations, appearing every year among the leaders in the *Report on Business* top 50 employers in Canada.

Black served seven years on the Board of the Bank of Canada; in 2008 he was appointed by his fellow Directors as the Bank's Lead Director, serving in this role for a period of four years. Black sits on the Board of the Global Risk Institute – established following the financial crisis of 2008 to build on Canada's reputation as a global leader in financial services.

Black's contributions to the business community led to his being appointed Chair of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce in 1995. In 2004, he chaired a summit on the future of economic development in Halifax. Black served on the Board of The Shaw Group, a resource and property development company, and Standard Life of Canada where he recently stepped down as its Deputy Chair. In 2008 he chaired the Panel reviewing pension legislation and regulation in the Province of Nova Scotia.

Black's interests go well beyond those of the business community. He served for nine years on the Board of the IWK Health Centre – including two years as Chair. He is a strong supporter of the performing arts, serving nine years on the Board of Symphony Nova Scotia (Chair 2009-2011). He sits on the Board for Dalhousie University. He leads an executive leadership seminar twice a year; for the past five years he has addressed a range of public policy issues, writing in a weekly newspaper column. In his writing, he has endorsed the competitive advantage for Canada of a strong securities regulatory system.