

PRESS RELEASE

- IS THERE SHAREHOLDER DEMOCRACY IN CANADA? -

Toronto, October 3, 2011. – You may think that when you mark your proxy and send it in, your vote gets counted – just like in a political election. That's where most individual shareholders, many institutions and even issuer companies go wrong. The fact is that Canada's current proxy voting system is so complex and dysfunctional that it isn't possible to know whether the vote of any beneficial shareholder actually got counted.

David Masse, Chairman of the Board of the *Canadian Society of Corporate Secretaries* noted that, "Effective voting processes for corporate elections are a pressing necessity." The sharp focus on shareholder engagement, through director elections and advisory votes on executive compensation, means voting has to be reliable so that the voices of the real shareholders are heard.

"In true CSCS fashion we are tackling this issue head on," remarked Masse. On October 24 and 25, 2011 at Toronto's Royal York Hotel we are gathering together everyone who plays a role in the system to take the first steps on the road to truly effective solutions.

This has never been done anywhere else in the world. Our "proxy plumbing" issues are similar to those found across the globe, but no one has taken the approach of gathering together every stakeholder and regulator, so each one has the opportunity to hear and understand the issues from every perspective.

"With that level of initial understanding coming out of the Summit, we are certain that this collaborative approach will sow the seeds for a straight-forward system where shareholders, directors and companies are protected from the impacts of lost votes, empty voting and over voting," said Sylvia Groves, Past Chair of CSCS. It's very exciting to think that this work will help Canada to maintain a strong, world-class market, founded on real shareholder democracy.

Lynn Beauregard, CSCS President, noted that, "Plans for the Summit are in full swing and we can already count panellists and participants from the Canadian Coalition for Good Governance, the Canadian Institute of Investor Relations, RBC Dexia, the Ontario Securities Commission, as well as participants from the US and international markets.

About the Shareholder Democracy Summit

Find all the latest information on the inaugural Shareholder Democracy Summit being held in Toronto on October 24 and 25, 2011 on the CSCS website at www.cscs.org/summit.

About CSCS

The *Canadian Society of Corporate Secretaries* is the voice of Corporate Secretaries and governance professionals in Canada. We provide our members with networking opportunities, information resources, annual and ongoing professional development options, advocacy and strategic alliances to support their critical role in the governance of their organizations.

For more information

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