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Montreal, October 4, 2013

The Secretary  
Ontario Securities Commission  
20 Queen Street West, 22<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 3S8**Re: Proposed Regulations regarding Women on Boards**

Dear Sir/Madame,

Your initiative regarding proposed regulations for women on boards was recently brought to my attention. Having been active in three (3) Québec governments (Robert Bourassa 1985-1994, Daniel Johnson 1994, Jean Charest 2007-2012), I have seen this issue evolve over the years. In addition, I have worked in education and business for over 25 years. More women are becoming involved on boards and in governance. We are better for it.

The involvement of women in governance and business has increased in past years and this can only help our economy and make us more competitive. While there is still much to do, there are studies and there is compelling evidence to support the notion that the participation of women in boards and governance is a win-win situation. I can only applaud your initiative and add my full support.

In Québec, there has been noticeable progress. The government of Jean Charest and its successor strongly endorsed the principle of equity on government boards. This is the kind of approach that can only send the right signals beyond the government sector and into the private domain. Your initiative is a step in the right direction. Well done.

Yours truly,

John Parisella  
Executive Director  
Former Chief of staff of Robert Bourassa, Daniel Johnson  
Former President of BCP (marketing and advertising)  
Former Québec Delegate General to New York