

Letter from the Editor **Lettre du Rédacteur en chef**

Christian Rouillard

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Letter from the Editor

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This is the first issue online of *revue gouvernance*.

This journal is a companion to *Optimumonline*.

Both journals are publishing papers in English and French, but while *optimumonline* is an issue-based journal, a who-what-where-when journal, *revue gouvernance* is an explanation-based journal, a why-how journal. Moreover, *revue gouvernance* is not restricted to public management. It is attempting to provide explanations for governance success and failures in the private, public and social sectors.

Very much like *Optimumonline*, *revue gouvernance* is a joint product of the Governance and Public Management Program of the School of Political Studies at the University of Ottawa, of Inveniré4, and The Summit Group.

This first issue is a transitional issue. It picks up where the paper issues left. Its content is an echo of this transition phase. Luc Juillet has taken the responsibility for the selection and editing of this first web-based issue.

This first web-based issue opens with a paper of Christian Rouillard and Louise Lemire comparing two groups of new retirees of the Canadian federal public service: a group that benefited from a program to help them move into retirement and another that did not benefit from it. They find that the programs were not effective.

The paper by Joseph Garcea examines and assesses the benefits and costs of novel provisions (like the recognition of municipal governments as “orders of government”, “spheres of jurisdiction”, etc.) that provincial and territorial governments are including in the emerging municipal statutory frameworks.

The third paper by Céline Chatelin analyzes the impacts of privatization on the decision-making process and on the interactions among key partners. It questions the traditional approaches to privatization and suggests an alternative approach based on an analysis of the rules that govern decision-making.

The fourth paper by Laurence Godard and Alain Schatt examines the long-term financial performance of 2037 French firms to gauge the impact of the separation of the decision and control functions in boards of directors. The anticipated negative effects of not separating these functions are not validated by the empirical results.

The fifth paper by Louis Corriveau has a more clearly theoretical bent. It deals with norms of governance in the language of game theory, and shows that the requirement of legitimacy in a firm or in another organization can be justified without the need for any *a priori* ethical principle.

Finally Charles-Henri d’Arcimoles and Stéphane Trébuq examine a sample of 353 family firms and find a positive relationship between employee ownership on the one hand, and a number of measures of organizational performance on the other.

Bonne lecture!

Christian Rouillard
for the editorial group