

Definition of Governance

Effective governance and accountability begin at home: in one's own organization, no matter how large or small. Voluntary organizations are first and foremost self-governing. An organization's leadership has a moral, legal and fiduciary responsibility to its members, constituencies, users and beneficiaries, staff and volunteers, as well as the general public. Specifically, it is responsible for effective governance of the organization. This means ensuring that the appropriate process and structures are in place to direct and manage an organization's operations and activities, and to ensure that they function well. The ultimate goal of good governance is to ensure the effectiveness, credibility and viability of the organization

Building on Strength: Improving Governance and Accountability in Canada's Voluntary Sector, The Panel on Accountability and Governance in the Voluntary Sector, 1999, p. 22