Professionalization of Public Procurement,
A Canadian Perspective

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Public Procurement in Canada

• An active profession at all levels
  • Federal
  • Provincial
  • Municipal
  • Crown Corporations
  • Education
  • Health
Public Procurement in Canada

Public procurement is unique

And

Different from procurement in the private sector

Why?
Public Procurement in Canada

3 important words...

Open
Fair
Transparent
Public Procurement in Canada

• Many public agencies will have a structured procurement department
  • Resources dedicated to the Procurement process
  • A function included on the administrative side of the organization
  • Reduced risk of political influence within the process
Public Procurement in Canada

• Recognition of the importance of the profession at the Federal level

“In today's rapidly changing environment, the Federal Government's Procurement and Materiel Management Communities have become a more knowledge-based profession, with an emphasis on its strategic advisory role. In an environment where accountability is foremost, it is essential that practitioners demonstrate they possess the advanced skills and knowledge required to function effectively and efficiently.”

Source: Public Works and Government Services Canada
Public Procurement in Canada

• How is the recognition demonstrated?
  • Line between strategic and tactical
  • Increased requirements in recruitment
Public Procurement in Canada

- Implementation of internal Certification programs (Federal)
  - Certified Federal Specialist in Procurement
    - Levels I and II
  - Certified Federal Specialist in Materials Management
    - Levels I and II

A clear distinction between **Procurement and Materials Management**...
Public Procurement in Canada

• How is the recognition demonstrated?
  
  • Existence of trade agreements
  
  • Existence of mechanism for dispute and litigation
Public Procurement in Canada

The Canadian International Trade Tribunal

Provides Canadian and international business with access to fair, transparent and timely processes for the investigation of trade remedy cases and complaints concerning federal government procurement and for the adjudication of appeals on customs and excise matters.

www.citt.gc.ca
Public Procurement in Canada

The Office of the Procurement Ombudsman

Mission:

to promote fairness, openness and transparency in federal government

Focus on three key elements:

Educate, facilitate, investigate

www.opo-boa.gc.ca
The Evolution

- Recognition of the value added of the procurement function
  - Strategic and no longer just tactical/clerical
  - Contribution in achieving global objectives
  - Benefits related to expertise on knowledge of the markets
  - Cost savings making it a revenue center
The Evolution

• Have each profession within the organization focus on their core expertise
  • Engineers
  • IT professionals
  • Politicians

Procurement is a profession by itself and should not be part of other professions
The Evolution

- The line between politics, end users and procurement professionals must be drawn
  - Politicians will focus on the public they serve
  - End users will focus on their core expertise
  - Procurement will be:
    - Serving the first two in the best interest of the organization from a business perspective
    - Neutral throughout the process
The Challenge

• Raise the profile of the profession
  
  Within the organization

  In the workforce in general

  In the younger generation
The Challenge

• Develop the resources currently in the profession

• Attract new qualified resources

We must therefore offer structured training programs
Professional Development

• Through structured university programs
  • Part of business programs

• Making procurement a dedicated specialty just like:
  • Accounting
  • Finance
  • Marketing
  • Etc
Professional Development

The finality should be:

A recognized professional designation
Professional Development

It is crucial that an alignment is taken towards the professional designations that are specifically in line with the **public procurement profession**.
Professional Development

• Professional designations specific to public procurement do exist:
  • Certified Public Procurement Buyer (CPPB)
  • Certified Public Procurement Officer (CPPO)

Body of Knowledge and certification managed by the Universal Public Procurement Certification Council (UPPCC)

www.uppcc.org
The « Professionalization »

• Is crucial to ensure that public money is spent correctly

• Is crucial to ensure that the following principles are followed:
  • Openness
  • Fairness
  • Transparency
The « Professionalization »

• The Canadian Public Procurement Council supports and strongly believes in the principles of

Open, Fair and Transparent

when it comes to public procurement
What is the CPPC?

A membership based organization who is the leading voice for public procurement professionals in Canada
What is the CPPC?

- The mission of the CPPC is to:
  - Promote dialogue and networking;
  - Facilitate information and knowledge exchange;
  - Develop approaches to common issues; and
  - Provide leadership for the resolution of shared challenges...

  to the benefit of public procurement in Canada and the citizens it serves.
Conclusion

In Canada the CPPC strongly believes that a **body of knowledge** aligned with a **training program** leading to a **Professional designation** is key to bring the public procurement profession to another level.
Conclusion

• Want to find out more about the professionalization of the procurement function in Canada?

Visit our website at

www.cppc-ccmp.ca
Conclusion

• Want to be connected to the public procurement best practices in Canada?

Join the CPPC as an International member

www.cppc-ccmp.ca
Thank you !