
Strategically Speaking

Kim Elliott

Hundreds of people contribute thousands of volunteer hours across Canada to the FMI. This same fact is true for many non-profit organizations.

Have you always wondered why? I have! Many times! As a relative new comer to the ranks of these hundreds of people who guide the FMI to continuing success, I have asked myself this question often. When I was asked to be the FMI National Director of Communications and Professional Liaison, I had to think a little bit before I accepted. I had always wanted to participate in a non-profit organization in the financial field, but was unsure where and when would be a good time to start. I also had some questions of how I could contribute.


My first major task as Director was to head a group of other volunteers (to become known as the Strategic Planning Committee) to develop and promulgate a new 5-year Strategic Plan for FMI National. Wow! A pretty lofty task for someone who was wondering not too long ago how I could contribute. As a career financial manager in the federal government, I have contributed peripherally to organizational strategic plans but have never been responsible to bring one to completion. So where was I to start? It turns out that when I began to look, some of the answers seemed to unfold before me.

I started with a review of the current and past strategic plans of the FMI. This gave me a good view of the organization, how it has evolved and where it is going. Then I needed to confirm a structured approach to Strategic Planning. As is frequently the case with a search on the Internet, there were more answers than I expected. However, from the many sources, I was able to see some semblance of a commonality in process and as such I proposed the approach noted to the right.

We are presently just getting started and are at the important stage of environmental scanning. This scanning is essential to understand and contextualize the world in

FMI VISION
Sharing Best Practices in Managing Public Sector Resources

FMI MISSION STATEMENT
The FMI*IGF is a volunteer, national organization which facilitates and provides a forum for dissemination of information on managing public sector resources.

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1. Environmental Scan
 2. Confirm Mission and Vision
 3. Strategic Analysis
 4. Strategy Formulation
 5. Long Term Objectives

which we operate and provides strategic intelligence that will be useful in describing relevant trends in the environment over the next five years.

The environmental scan will serve as a basis to define the strengths and weaknesses of the FMI as well as a basis to identify threats and opportunities facing the Institute over the planning period.

This brings me to an important purpose of this article. **Your views!**

The FMI is what it is, primarily because of its members. As such, it is important when looking ahead, to get input from you. This article serves to tap into your perspective by informing you about the initiative to create a new FMI Strategic Plan and soliciting your views that would contribute to the new plan. To this end we ask you to consider the following questions and provide feedback to us by the end of March 2005. Answer any or all questions or provide any views that you feel may help us as we plan for the future. If you are not an FMI member, please feel free to provide your views. All replies will be held in the strictest confidence.

1. What areas or services should the FMI

focus on over the next five years to better provide for the needs of members?

2. For all FMI programming (national or provincial events, FMI Journal, etc.)...
 - a. What is providing the most/least benefit to you?
 - b. How can programming be improved?
3. What do you see as trends in the areas of Financial Management or public sector resource management in general over the next five years that the FMI should be aware of in the development of the FMI Strategic Plan - 2005/2009?

Please also provide the following information:

1. Are you an FMI member?
2. Do you work in the public sector?
3. If yes to question two above, are you employed by the federal, provincial or municipal government?

Please send your response to the FMI National Office at national@fmi.ca. If you would like to read the current FMI Strategic Plan, it can be viewed at www.fmi.ca/strat-plan_e.html. ■

Kim Elliott is a senior analyst with the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.