

**OFFICE OF
THE PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICER**



**BUREAU DU
DIRECTEUR PARLEMENTAIRE DU BUDGET**

OECD Draft Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions

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**Kevin Page,
Parliamentary Budget Officer (Canada)**

Background

- ***Independent fiscal institutions* (IFIs) are publicly funded, independent bodies that provide non-partisan fiscal policy analysis.**
- **IFIs promote budget transparency and may enhance fiscal discipline.**
- **Despite considerable heterogeneity among IFI functions, they typically act as a “watchdog” by providing *ex ante* analysis not *ex post* audits.**

Background

- **The number of IFIs has grown dramatically in recent years.**
- **In April 2011, the OECD Parliamentary Budget Officials network asked the OECD Secretariat to develop a draft set of principles for IFIs.**

Proposed OECD Principles for IFIs

- 1. Local ownership**
- 2. Independence and non-partisanship**
- 3. Clear legislated mandate**
- 4. Resources commensurate with mandate**

Proposed OECD Principles for IFIs

- 5. Support the legislatures' accountability function in the budget process**
- 6. Legislated access to free and timely information from the executive**
- 7. Transparent operations**

Illustrative challenges in the Canada context

“All things are **difficult** before they are easy”

Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)

- broad, complex mandate
- limited resources
- limited access to government data

“In the middle of difficulty, lies **opportunity**”

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

- to raise the level of public debate
- to promote budget transparency
- to level the playing field between the executive and legislature

“Progress is impossible without **change**”

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

- our open and transparent operating model ran counter to a tradition of control and secrecy
- provide additional data point

“Enabling legislation and principles provide a framework for operations, but effective implementation often requires culture change”



General discussion among the delegates

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