



GOVERN
for
IMPACT

UPDATE
Newsletter



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Spotlight

Resources for Making Reliable Sense of Our Confusing World

GOVERN for IMPACT has a very valued relationship with Ruben Nelson, one of Canada's leading futurists. Ruben has spoken at GOVERN's annual conferences and provided multiple workshops to bring insights regarding the links between future thinking and making sense of our rapidly changing, confusing world... and the role of excellent governance in leading change.

Ruben has outlined in the note below a series of resources that can assist the reader, the explorer with insights to these challenging topics. We express our appreciation to Ruben for his work in sharing these resources and his annotated listing with our GOVERN community. One of Ruben's roles is to serve as Executive Director of Foresight Canada, Courageous Guidance for Transforming Change. Enjoy!

Watch for the launch of our GOVERN collaboration with Ruben Nelson in our upcoming ongoing online chat/hub/learning community which will be an ongoing conversation on Making Sense of Our Confusing World - Future Focus. More information to come in the future.

Karen Fryday-Field
GOVERN, CEO



Resources for Making Reliable Sense of Our Confusing World

Prepared by:

Ruben Nelson, Executive Director

Foresight Canada

All of the material which follows is reliable and edgy. These are multiple sources of information which, when taken together, offer multiple perspectives. We assume you have access to the normal sources of information in our culture. Pay attention to that which catches your eye. Skim other pieces and ignore the rest until it calls you.

Blogs and Blog Aggregators:

These are all from my top tier. All are free. Just sign up.

[AEON](#). They publish three short (3-8 pages) well-written, provocative essays each day. Every area of life is touched on over time. Helps me stay current with the edge of thought. "Subscribe to our newsletter" is at the bottom of the home page. Daily.

[Ethical Markets](#) by Hazel Henderson. Hazel has devoted her life to thinking about markets, finance and the economy, why they do not serve us and what can be done to align them with both humanity and nature. "Subscribe" is on the Home page in the middle just a bit more than a screen length down. {Disclosure: I know Hazel.} Daily.

[Naked Capitalism](#) by Yves Smith. She brings passion, insight and grit to the work of making reliable sense of money, the financial world and economics. Four ways to "subscribe" are at the top right of the home page. Daily.

[Our Finite World](#), by Gail Tverberg. She brings an original mind and a courageous voice to the root issues of energy and human cultures. Sign up at the top the column on the right on her home page. Weekly.

[Resilience](#), by the Post-Carbon Institute. The "Get Resilience delivered daily" bar is at the top right of the Resilience home page. They focus on societal transformation. Daily.

[The Conversation](#). Insightful, research-based journalism and commentary. "Get newsletter" is on the top bar towards the left. Daily.

[The Energy Mix](#), by Mitchell Beer. Canadian. Great access to top energy stories from an insightful team of Canadians. "Subscribe" button on front page. {Disclosure: I know Mitchell.} Daily

[The Energy Skeptic](#), by Alice Friedemann. Very knowledgeable and frank. Her site has extensive resources. To "Follow" click on the symbol of your choice at the bottom of the right hand column. 2-4 a week.

[The Tyee](#). Based in BC, its coverage is mostly BC and Alberta. The Tyee is a good source of commentary on current issues from folks whose insight is deeper than most. There is a "get our Newsletter free" link at the top right. It is in small letters. If you wish to add your voice, you must "Become a reader." The link is on the top bar on the right. Daily.

Books:

All these books deal with the profound (epochal, paradigm-bursting) changes of the 21st Century. Of course, there are hundreds of others.

[A Short History of Progress](#) by Ronald Wright. The CBC's 2004 Massey Lectures. A short and accessible introduction to the notion that we who are Modern Techno-Industrial (MTI) persons and cultures are "Progress trapped," why this is and what it implies about our future.

[Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy](#) by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. I have found it depressing to come to understand the actual historical situation we are in and the fact that I live in a culture which lives by a view that can only be described as both "to be expected" and "unhinged from reality." The issue of hope arises. Joanna Macy is one of the best guides in this space. {Disclosure: I know Joanna.}

[Christianity After Religion: The End of the Church and the Beginnings of a New Spiritual Awakening](#) by Diana Butler-Bass. A case study of a major dimension of our lives and how it is evolving as our MTI cultures disintegrate.

[Energy Slaves: Oil and the New Servitude](#) by Andrew Nikiforuk. A fine introduction to the central and critical role of energy in human cultures, the way high carbon energy has become our "slaves," and the way we are now trapped by this relationship.

[Immoderate Greatness: Why Civilizations Fail](#), by William Ophuls. This may be the best short (75 pages) and substantial essay which explain the basic dynamics of the major reasons human cultures eventually fail. It is the background you need to understand why breaking out of the miasma of our Modern cultures is necessary, reasonable and difficult.

[Swans Swine and Swindlers: Coping with the Growing Threat of Mega-Crises and Mega-Messes](#), by Can M. Alpaslan and Ian Mitroff. This is a fine short book which explores the mind-set we who were formed in MTI cultures have inherited and why it no longer lets us make reliable sense of our world. (Disclosure: I know Ian Mitroff.)

[The Limits to Growth: A Report to the Club of Rome](#), by Donella Meadows, et al, 1972. A PDF is available. The book is out of print. If you own a copy it is now worth several hundred dollars. An early warning which was ignored for two reasons. First, too few in the culture were "collapse literate" enough to understand what it said and what it implied. Second, in the early 1970s we who are Modern were so full of our power and success that we were in no mood to hear and digest any truly challenging news.

[The Long Emergency: Surviving the End of Oil, Climate Change, and Other Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-First Century](#), by James Howard Kunstler, 2006. A relatively early book suggesting where we who are MTI peoples are and cultures are in more trouble that is understood or planned for. At the time folk thought it was "interesting" but not a storm warning.

[The Illusions of Urban Man](#) by Ruben Nelson. A short prophetic meditation on the state of Canadian society in 1976. A best seller. 2nd edition, 1980, available as a pdf file.

Organizations:

[CACOR](#) The Canadian Association of the Club of Rome.

They have some of the finest minds in Canada in their voluntary community. CACOR sponsors a weekly free, presentation by Zoom. Go to the "Contact us" page and sign up to receive notices. Become a member. I have been a member for decades.

[Cascade Institute](#)

A new centre of research and practice focussed on understanding and responding courageously to the truly strategic risks of societal collapse. Headed by Thomas Homer-Dixon, one of Canada's most insightful scholars. Their research papers are downloadable. A "Subscribe to eNews" bar is at the bottom on the home page.

[Foresight Canada](#)

FC's research program has focussed on the long-term dynamics which drive and mark the emergence and disintegration of whole forms of civilization. [Disclosure: Ruben Nelson is FC's Executive Director.]

[International Futures Forum](#)

A UK-based, international network seeking to make sense of the times with fresh eyes. Their practice centre is worth exploring. Their Three Horizons model has been used all over the world. [Disclosure: I know Graham Leicester.]

[Post Carbon Institute](#)

One of the few bodies devoting all its energy to exploring the need for and nature of a shift to a post-carbon culture/economy. It sponsors the Resilience blog (see above). It has a “subscribe” bar on the top right of its home page. Richard Heinberg (see below) works there and writes for them.

Transformation Research Network

The only Canadian charity which takes as its starting point that ours is time “when transformational changes are both required and actually emerging within us, among us and around us.” Our work is to assist those who wish to explore this new way of framing the deep dynamics of the 21st Century. TRN does not yet have a website. [Disclosure: Ruben Nelson Chairs TRN’s Board.]

Persons:

A very small sample of some of the key person in this space. If you go to You Tube and search for them by name you will find videos worth watching.

Hazel Henderson: See her Ethical Markets in the Blogs section.

Jem Bendell: Author of the very important [Deep Adaptation paper](#).

Nate Hagens: A major prophetic thinker. [Nate Hagens - Post Carbon Institute](#).

Joanna Macy: An extraordinarily wise person. See her book above.

Richard Heinberg: Senior Fellow of the Post Carbon Institute above. Resilience is their blog.

Ruben Nelson: Much of his writing is in the [Foresight Canada Library](#).

Thomas Homer-Dixon: An influential Canadian public intellectual. [See his own website](#).

William Rees: Bill may be the wisest ecological economist alive today. See his own site.

Videos of Presentations:

These are a very small sample of worthwhile videos.

Will Modern Civilization be the Death of Us? June 29th and 30th, 2020. Bill Rees, followed by Ruben Nelson, presented a Special Session of the 2020 Annual Meeting of the AAAS for the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science.

1. Bill <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3GB191UDil&feature=youtu.be>
2. Ruben <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfZu23ya-AY&feature=youtu.be>

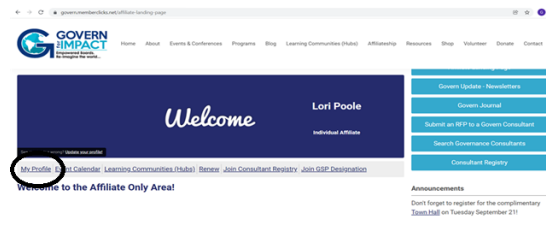
Bill Rees. Too Clever by Half, But not nearly Smart Enough: Why Societal Collapse is Increasingly Possible. Presented to the Canadian Association of the Club of Rome. December 2020. Too clever by half, but not nearly smart enough - Bill Rees to the Canadian Club of Rome - YouTube

Ruben Nelson: Living with a Post-Despair Hope. Presented to the Edge Program of the United Church of Canada, Fall, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SB-UdHEW1Yk&feature=youtu.be>

Nate Hagens: Earth and Humanity. His most recent summary statement. (2hours+) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNzLkdr7UIU>

As of: September 9, 2021

What's New?



CLICK FOR SIMPLE, EASY STEPS TO FOLLOW

Updating Your Online Profile with GOVERN for IMPACT

Many exciting things are happening with GOVERN for IMPACT and we would hate for you to miss out!

So please take a quick moment to ensure your online profile is up to date.

It's easy.



Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) Boards of Distinction

Read More

Governance Excellence Recognized by Washington State School Directors Association

GOVERN for IMPACT is dedicated to building a world where boards lead the organization to achieve clear purpose and critical outcomes in an ethical, prudent, just, and risk-aware manner.

It is GOVERN's pleasure to announce the Board of Directors of North Thurston Public Schools, on which GOVERN Board Member Chuck Namit has served for 28 years, has been recognized as a 2021 Boards of Distinction in the category of large school districts (9,0001+ student FTE) by the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA). North Thurston Public Schools was honoured on Friday November 19, 2021 at the WSSDA annual conference.



Watch the video above to hear about some of the reasons Karen became a Business Hall of Fame Laureate

Karen Fryday-Field, Junior Achievement of Southwestern Ontario Business Hall of Fame Laureate

On Thursday October 21, 2021 Karen Fryday-Field, GOVERN's CEO was officially recognized as one of the 2021 Junior Achievement of Southwestern Ontario Business Hall of Fame Laureates.

This is a distinct honour for Karen. She is one of a few women join this illustrious group of entrepreneurs.

[See Karen's Acceptance Speech](#)



GOVERN for IMPACT Congratulations to John Tzountzouris, GSP on his Appointment to the Position of Registrar & CEO of The College of Medical Technologists of Ontario (CMLTO)

This PGP Graduate (2019/2020 cohort) and previous member of the GOVERN for IMPACT Professional Education Team (PET) was recently appointed as Registrar & CEO for The College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario. This organization has been actively practising with Policy Governance since 2015.

John has worked at the CMLTO since 2009, beginning as Senior Policy & Knowledge Management Specialist and most recently as Director, Registration & Professional Practice since 2017.

We are proud of you!

[Read the CMLTO Board Chair's Announcement](#)



What it Means to Be a Governance System Professional (GSP) Fellow at GOVERN for IMPACT

Governance System Professional, Fellow at GOVERN for IMPACT is a very distinguished position. We value these governance leaders and admire what they have accomplished.

[Read More](#)

Engage with GOVERN

GOVERN for IMPACT Call for Board Nominations

GOVERN has an opening for a Board Member on our governing Board. We really appreciate each and every affiliate of GOVERN and hope that some may be interested in a governance role on our Board.

Have you considered helping to build the Policy Governance community and advance the future foresight of GOVERN for IMPACT by serving as a Board Member with this amazing dynamic group of world changing people?

If you are interested in being nominated for a Board position or if you would like more information about this, please contact either:

Pat McCarver, GOVERN Board Chair
patricia.mccarver@wgu.edu

or

Ray Tooley, GOVERN Board Nominations Committee Chair
rtooley@ourboardroom.net

2022 F2F Advanced Practice Virtual Forum Reclaiming the Importance of Effective Governance February 25 & 26, 2022

Governing for Impact in Our Disrupted Reality

The 2022 F2F Advanced Forum includes two half-days of immersive, collaborative, and transformative learning experiences.

Join Forum Chair Hulian Krenn, Director of Learning and Impact at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation on Friday, February 25 & Saturday, February 26 along with outstanding speakers Dan Phelan, Karen Fryday-Field and others to be announced.

To see the full agenda click on the image to the right.

REGISTER NOW

Governing for Impact in Our Disrupted Reality

Day 1

Session Outline

Friday

February 25, 2022

10:00-4:30 pm ET

Many more dynamic speakers to be announced!

Please join us... the sessions are going to really challenge us.

Empowered Boards.

Re-imagine the world...

GOVERN for IMPACT High Level End
Current and potential affiliates, board members, organizational leaders, and those who support boards (collectively, "the governance community") practice effective governance, as currently exemplified by Policy Governance, at a worth greater than the cost to deliver it.

10:00-10:30 am Welcome, Introductions, and Session Goals

10:30-12:45 pm Session 1 – A Deep Drive into [Board Ownership Linkage](#) Under Changing World Perspectives on Ownership

1.1 The Whats and Whys of Ownership Linkage

- Moving the Board from the preoccupation of the present to developing future foresight
- Board's role in using the ownership insights, perspectives, and values on needs to be served and desired impact to shape Board articulated Ends/Critical Outcomes (what goal/impact, for whom, at what worth)
- What do Board's talk about in a linkage initiative?

1.2 Who Makes Up the Moral Ownership? – Karen Fryday-Field

- The language of 'careholdership'
- The changing lens in light of equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization
- How does the Board contemporize a legacy owner/funder perspective (if one exists)?

1.3 Supporting Boards to Understand, Buy Into, Own Their Linkage Role – Dan Phelan

- Some objections Boards offer to ownership linkage
- Avoiding the Board working around the edges of real ownership engagement
- Avoiding what masquerades as ownership linkage
- Avoiding 'dumping' linkage on the CEO
- Practical strategies for assisting Boards in 'owning' their responsibility to effectively link

1.4 Applied Solutions and Practice Tools to Support Effective Board Ownership Linkage

F2F Advanced Practice Virtual Forum Planning Team
Huilan Krenn (Team Leader), Dan Phelan, Karen Fryday-Field, Michael Palmer

Would You Be Interested in Presenting? Call for Conference Presentation Proposals 2022

We are excited to gather again in person in Fort Worth, TX June 16 to 18, 2022 for the GOVERN for IMPACT 2022 Conference. Our GOVERN for IMPACT Conference theme is: Organizations that Make a Difference: Board-Driven Relevance and Accountability, and our desire is to provide thought leadership and access to introductory and advanced training that inspires governance excellence, more impactful organizations and businesses, and hence a better world.

Please consider contributing to this effort by presenting at a session or working with others to lead a panel discussion. For the time being, we are asking your collaboration in building out the PG Governing Fundamentals Track, a series of five seventy-five minute workshops structured around the following Policy Governance® principles:

1. Ends (Development and Monitoring)
2. Executive Limitations (Development and Monitoring)
3. Ownership Linkage
4. Board Process/Self-Assessment/Fiduciary Duties
5. Board-CEO Relationship Principles and Practices

Of course, we welcome ideas that you might have to present. We also encourage you to encourage others to lead (or collaborate in) a session. Please provide a one-paragraph summary of your idea and approach to the topic and your contact information by **January 20, 2022**. Please also provide a clear description of your training and experience in Policy Governance and an overview of your experience presenting Policy Governance. Please gear your proposal to an in-person/hybrid (simultaneous virtual) audience, but allow for flexibility should public health/travel restrictions require the Conference to be virtual. Your proposal should be sent to admin@governforimpact.org by Monday **January 20, 2022** by 5:00 pm eastern time.

Soon, we will reach out for presentation ideas for the Governing Into the Future Track, which will focus on leading and catalyzing critical conversations about local, national and global governance issues and challenges. This future track can also include advanced thinking and innovations in governing using the Policy Governance System.

We look forward to working with you and learning from you.

Tom Keyse
Conference Chair/Conference Program Team Leader
GOVERN for IMPACT

and

Karen Fryday-Field
CEO, GOVERN for IMPACT



REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE

I'M INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

When indicating your interest, please:

1. Provide a one-paragraph summary of your idea and approach to the topic and your contact information.
2. Provide a clear description of your training and experience in Policy Governance and an overview of your experience presenting Policy Governance.

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