

Dentons reaches major milestone in its commitment to women in leadership

November 29, 2016

Dentons is proud to announce that following recent elections within the Firm, our Canada Region Board now comprises 50 percent women out of the 10 elected members.

“Our Canada Region has been at the forefront and relentless in our efforts at Dentons to create a workplace that encourages diversity and inclusion, reflecting the environment in which we and our globally diverse clients operate,” said Elliott Portnoy, Global Chief Executive Officer of Dentons. “Their ongoing focus and dedication has led to this significant achievement and I am proud to congratulate them on this well-earned success.”

In 2013, Dentons Canada LLP published its Statement of Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion, which sets out seven specific goals, including the goal to increase the number of women represented in leadership roles at the firm. The Firm specifically agreed that:

Leadership of the Canada Region is responsible for ensuring that all leadership appointments are managed in a way that promotes diversity and inclusion goals while ensuring candidates have the skills required for the role.

To achieve this goal, the Firm developed a nominating process with a specific mandate to identify and encourage the participation of qualified candidates in the Firm’s Board election process.

“The Firm recognized that while goal setting was important, it was critical that an implementation plan was concurrently put in place to ensure that we were able to not only reach, but to exceed our goal and achieve this major milestone,” said Kate Broer, Dentons Canada Region Co-Chair of Diversity and Inclusion.

In 2013, Dentons also signed on to the Catalyst Accord, a call to action to Canadian corporations to increase the overall proportion of FP500 board seats held by women to 25 percent by 2017.

In 2015, Chris Pinnington, the Firm’s Canada CEO, became a member of the newly launched Canada chapter of the 30% Club, an organization that includes both board Chairs and CEOs committed to achieving better gender balance at board level, as well as senior management levels. Its goal is for 30 percent of board seats to be held by women by 2019.

“Diversity and inclusion are key dimensions of our strategy and business drivers at Dentons. It is well-known that organizations with more women on their boards are more successful,” said Chris. “I commend all of our partners for their full engagement with our leadership goals and priorities, and in particular, thank those who were the stewards of our nominating process and all who put their names forward for positions on our Board, ensuring an inclusive and effective process.”

With representation from all six of our Canada offices, the elected members of Dentons’ Canada Region Board are:

- Ann Bigué, Ad. E.

- Laura K. Estep
- Tim B. Haney
- Andrea C. Johnson
- Karen Martin
- Laurent Nahmiash
- Charles Rich
- Richard A. Scott

About Dentons

Dentons is the world's largest law firm, connecting top-tier talent to the world's challenges and opportunities with 20,000 professionals including 12,000 lawyers, in more than 200 locations, in more than 80 countries. Dentons' polycentric and purpose-driven approach, commitment to inclusion and diversity, and award-winning client service challenge the status quo to advance client interests. www.dentons.com

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