# WOMEN ON BOARDS IN CANADA

PRESIDENT & CEO
CPA CANADA



## Women on Boards in Canada

#### WHERE ARE WE?

#### CANADIAN FP 100

- 18.1 % OF C-SUITE
- 5.7% OF CEOS
- 14.5 % OF DIRECTORS
- 10.3% OF DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES
- 46% HAVE ZERO WOMEN DIRECTORS

#### WORLD RANKINGS

■ 10th out of 20 major industrialized countries (Recent study)



## Women on Boards in Canada

# BARRIERS / REASONS(?) FOR CURRENT SITUATION?

- Masculine corporate culture
- LACK OF NETWORKS
- Lack of role models / mentoring
- "NEED CEO EXPERIENCE TO BE A DIRECTOR"...MYTH?
- "Lack of qualified candidates"...MYTH?
- "IT'S NOT A PROBLEM...WOMEN ARE CATCHING UP"...MYTH?



## **WOMEN ON BOARDS IN CANADA**

#### **SOME SOLUTIONS**

- "COMPLY OR EXPLAIN" CORPORATE GOVERNANCE POLICIES (MAY 2013 ONTARIO ANNOUNCEMENT)
- FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL TO PROMOTE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN ON BOARDS
- VOLUNTARY INITIATIVES ... PEER PRESSURE... CATALYST ACCORD GOAL OF 25% RE FP 500
- Need for organizational strategies to support women in leadership positions
- HEAD HUNTING FIRMS TO COMMIT TO CODE OF CONDUCT PROMOTING BOARD DIVERSITY

