Board Development Practices on Wisconsin and Nova Scotia: Is There a Difference?

Douglas Ihrke
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Nathan Grasse
Central Michigan University

E. Grant MacDonald
Dalhousie University

Abstract

This study examines the extent to which nonprofit boards in Wisconsin and Nova Scotia engage in board development practices, as perceived by executive directors, board chairs, and board members. The results of the study are based upon survey results from a random sample of these officials representing nonprofit organizations in the State of Wisconsin in the United States and the Province of Nova Scotia in Canada. Our results indicate that perceptions of the extent to which boards engage in these practices vary across Wisconsin and Nova Scotia, as well as across positions within nonprofits in these two locales. We elaborate on why differences in perceptions about these practices can be problematic and how addressing these differences can allow nonprofit officials to make improvements or enhancements that lead to better overall organizational effectiveness.