



THE HONOURABLE BILL MORNEAU

FOR SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Government of Canada is pleased to nominate Bill Morneau, Canada's minister of finance from 2015 to 2020, for the position of Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). As Canada's finance minister, he played a leading role in Canada's economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic and, through feminist and progressive policies, helped build a strong economy that benefits everyone.

In an increasingly complex and evolving international context, the OECD provides a unique setting for its members to discuss pressing social, economic and environmental issues; to conduct evidence-based policy analysis; to promote greener and more inclusive global growth; and to support the creation of best practices and measurable international standards. In order to fulfill its important mandate over the next decade, the organization needs a Secretary-General who has the ability to think strategically and who can innovate and engage diverse groups to address complex global issues. The next OECD leader must be able to develop a clear vision and mobilize subject-matter expertise and must have demonstrated excellence in management. It will also be critically important to be attuned to members' needs and to foster collaboration.

A knowledgeable and collaborative leader with proven international experience

Bill Morneau has worked in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors, which gives him unique insights into the needs and interests of different groups and how to build bridges between them. He recognizes the importance, both in Canada and in international settings, of common approaches to difficult problems and of forging consensus to address challenges. He has proven his ability to work with different stakeholder groups and, in multilateral contexts, to speak up for partners, irrespective of size or geography, to achieve outcomes that benefit the greatest number of people possible.

Mr. Morneau has gained a deep appreciation of the complex issues currently facing OECD countries through his active participation in major international socio-economic forums, including the G7, the G20, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the OECD, and as governor of both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Prior to his time in a government that has focused on sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive economic policies over the last five years, Mr. Morneau was chair of the C.D. Howe Institute, a leading Canadian economic think tank. Through this work, he has gained experience in public policy research and understanding of the urgent need to find constructive solutions to difficult problems, including growth, inequality, the rapid shift to digitalization, challenges to rules-based trade and climate change.

A global economic recovery that works for everyone

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed structural challenges in our economies and clear gaps in social safety nets around the world. Women, young people, low-skilled workers and vulnerable populations have been disproportionately affected by the impacts of the pandemic. Small and medium-sized businesses, the engine of growth in many countries, have been pushed to adapt in ways that were unimaginable less than a year ago. Achieving a post-pandemic recovery that aims to close these gaps and helps economies get on a track to renewed prosperity will clearly be a critical area of focus for OECD members in the years to come. A deep understanding of the economic and social issues that have emerged from the pandemic will be essential. Credibility on this file, such as that possessed by a finance minister from an OECD member state that has successfully supported its citizens through these challenging times, will be extremely beneficial to the organization's leadership in this area.

Building green and resilient economies

Climate change is impacting people and businesses around the world and shaping the future of economies. The OECD can play an important role in the development, coordination and implementation of key policy initiatives among member states. Seizing the opportunities of the green economy will also be crucial to a successful transition that creates greater economic opportunities for citizens and does not leave workers behind. Coming from a country with an ambitious climate change agenda and a large energy sector, Mr. Morneau has extensive experience in developing and implementing complex policy initiatives that aim to reduce carbon emissions and create economic growth. He will work with member states to find common ground on the best practices, aimed at achieving clear objectives, that all countries will need to depend on in the years to come.

Addressing the challenges of the digitalized world

The digitalization of the global economy has dramatically changed the way citizens learn, engage with each other and earn a living. This massive shift in behaviour has created gaps between the public policies of member states that can only be closed through increased international cooperation and consensus-based solutions. The OECD is uniquely placed to lead the way. Its role involves engaging with the private sector, labour and other key partners in civil society in the development of policy and in identifying and communicating the need for change that benefits everyone. Experience working with these stakeholders in various capacities gives Mr. Morneau unique insight into building multi-stakeholder collaboration on important social and economic policy questions, such as taxation policies that are fair for member states while ensuring the attraction of investment and maintaining and promoting business competitiveness.

Leadership excellence to achieve better outcomes

The success of the OECD depends on strong operational effectiveness, accountability and experienced management. Mr. Morneau honed his managerial skills over the course of a long career in the private sector, growing the firm Morneau Shepell from a few hundred employees to more than 4,000. Part of the OECD's continued success will be based on the ability of the Secretary-General to harness the skills of over 3,700 employees from various countries and very diverse backgrounds to tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow. Throughout his career, including during his time in a gender-balanced Cabinet, Mr. Morneau has seen up close the importance of diversity, inclusion and modernizing management practices to achieve the best possible organizational outcomes. In addition, as finance minister, he has gained valuable public sector experience working across agendas in a rigorous and fiscally responsible way.

The connections Mr. Morneau has built over the last several years working with international partners in various multilateral forums, including the OECD, will be invaluable in helping him serve the best interests of member states. Looking forward, he will continue to build and uphold the international standards and best practices for which the organization is known. If chosen to lead, Mr. Morneau will faithfully represent the views of members in the execution of this important work.

“ I am looking forward to meeting with representatives of all member states to discuss how to forge, together, the most modern, transparent and efficient organization possible so as to accomplish its core mandate and tackle the issues of our time.”

- Bill Morneau

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