

Bill Black



Bill was born on June 27, 1950 in Halifax. He has been a leading member of the community combining a successful business career with a strong commitment to community service and to his family.

Bill worked with Maritime Life for 34 years, rising to the office of President and CEO in 1995. In his nine years as President, the Company grew organically and through four successful acquisitions. By 2004 the company had 3,000 employees and \$15 billion in assets under management. Under Bill's leadership, Maritime Life had a strong commitment to both customers and employees. It gained a strong reputation for employee relations – appearing every year among the leaders in the Report on Business list of top 50 employers in Canada. At the same time profitability was consistently excellent.

Bill's contributions to the business community led to his sitting on several boards including as Chairman of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce in 1995, as chair-designate of the Capital Markets Regulatory Authority and spending seven years on the Bank of Canada Board including two as lead director. Bill chaired the panel reviewing pension legislation and regulation in the Province of Nova Scotia in 2008, served on the Board of Nova Scotia Business Inc, and remains a long-time member of the Board of The Shaw Group, a Halifax-based resource and property development company.

Bill has been a leading advocate for better public policy and often tackles complex matters that require extensive research, such as pension reform and UARB submissions from Nova Scotia Power. He hosts a blog at newstartns.ca and has a regular column in the Chronicle Herald.

In 2015 Bill was named a Member of the Order of Canada, being recognized for his achievements in business and in the community and continues to share his extensive experience as a keynote speaker, both as CEO and in community life. He led a leadership seminar for senior leaders for 14 years and has published a book called *Lead with Values*. Bill's roots go well beyond those of the business community, and he constantly demonstrates his dedication to community, serving a total of nine years on the board of the IWK Health Centre, including two years as Chairman. Bill is past chair of Symphony Nova Scotia, continues to serve as a member of the Symphony Foundation Board and was past vice-chair of Dalhousie University.

Bill and his wife Lorraine have generously supported a wide range of organizations, including Laing House, Adsum House, and Phoenix Youth Programs where they received a Special Recognition Award in 2019. In 2008, Bill and Lorraine created the Black Family Foundation, whose goal is “to support organizations that improve the present and future quality of life for Nova Scotians.

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