



# NICHOLAS CHEUNG

**CPA, CA, GPC.D, CIPP/C**

Professor, School of Accounting and Financial Services  
**Seneca College**  
GPC Board Director

## *Fun fact:*

*I have climbed the 1,776 steps to the top of the CN Tower seven times to raise funds for the United Way. My fastest time was just under 18 minutes. My best experience was going up with my 11 year-old son and he was thrilled to beat his Dad!*

## Why have you joined GPC?

Gigi Dawe of CPA Canada introduced me as GPC was looking for an accountant to join their faculty to teach the advanced financial fundamentals course of the GP-Education Program (GPC-EP). I was so excited about the education program that I actually completed the program as well - I'm proud to have earned my GPC.D designation as part of the first graduating cohort. I wanted to have a stronger governance background to help take my career to the next level and the GPC.D has helped me accomplish that.

## What advice would you share with a fellow governance professional?

Be proactive! A good resource library will act as a toolkit in your profession. Find ways in which you can provide value to your board and set your board up for success. Ask yourself "Does my board do this? If not, what can I do to help make the directors be even better directors?" Identify gaps, risks and areas of opportunity and work with them. This is where your resource library fits in. A governance professional, working with the chair and CEO, can be instrumental in ensuring Board members have tools, resources and education to assist them in making decisions as efficiently and effectively as possible.

## What is a key topic right now in the world of governance?

Cybersecurity is definitely a key topic in governance right now. It's easier to understand the urgency with cybersecurity, but there are also other topics that we should be thinking about - like climate change. It can be hard to see its importance today and apply to our current state as the impacts are more gradual. But the reality is, climate change IS an urgent issue for every organization. How do we bring this topic to a more tactical level that is tangible to our boards regarding decisions that affect the next 3 to 5 years? How do we make it relevant to today's business and my specific organization? Those are the questions we should be asking.