

## **Letter from the Editor** **Lettre du rédacteur en chef**

Christian Rouillard

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## Letter from the Editor

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**Christian Rouillard**

This new issue of *Revue gouvernance* is reflective of the scope and complexity of issues and challenges covered by the contemporary notion of governance. From participative and deliberative practices in the environmental and energy sectors in Canada and France, to the relative place of public interest and common good in collective decision-making processes, the study of governance does indeed cover a lot of empirical and philosophical ground.

Back for the second time, is our section « Debate and deliberation » which, in this issue, belongs to an expert in public ethics, Nathalie Burlone, and an expert in political thought and theory, Dalie Giroux, both from the University of Ottawa. In a courteous, yet very rigorous, exchange of ideas, Burlone and Giroux offer us much to broaden our understanding of the role of ethics, and implicit concepts of common good in political decisions.

Through a detailed case study, Sylvia Prins, Marc Craps, and Tharsi Taillieu (*Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*) look into water management and nature conservation, using the heuristic concept of dynamic boundaries, in order to identify and explain the elements of resistance and conflict that often come along with change management, especially in the context of multiparty collaborations.

In his paper on the energy sector in Québec and France, Louis Simard (University of Ottawa) emphasizes the asymmetrical nature of power relations in a deliberative context, suggesting that, in many cases, patterns of so-called 'new governance' still have a long way to go before becoming a true alternative to traditional modes of governing.

Bachir Mazouz (ENAP), Joseph Facal (HEC-Montréal) and Imad-Eddine Hatimi (HEC-Montréal) offer a nuanced critique of the role played by international organizations in the emergence and diffusion of ideas and practices rooted in the managerialist paradigm. As they explain, the rise of managerialism in Anglo-american countries, and indeed many other post-industrial democracies, is indebted to the continuous advocacy efforts made by organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

In her paper on the official language minorities in Canada, Linda Cardinal (University of Ottawa) builds a telling critique of the modes of governance traditionally favoured in that complex and highly political sphere of public policy. Her analysis ends with a number of recommendations enabling policy-makers to make substantive changes in the near future, granted the necessary political will...

All in all, another diverse issue of *Revue gouvernance* that contributes to a better understanding of the traditional, and emerging, modes of governance in different public policy sectors.