

## THE 3 Ds, 3 Gs, 3 Ts & 3Ws OF BOARDS

Using catch phrases or acronyms makes it easy to remember certain principles or guidelines. There are several sets of triplicate letters that help board members recall particular expectations tied to their board service.

**3 Ds** refers to the legal obligations of board members. They are the duty of care, duty of obedience, and duty of loyalty. These duties indicate that a good board member makes prudent decisions, respects laws and the organization's legal documents, and does not put personal interests above the interests of the organization.

**3 Gs** means 'give, get, or get out.' Many boards expect their members to bring in money either by making a personal contribution or participating in fundraising or both. If this does not happen, a board member may be asked to leave to give the seat to someone else.

**3 Ts** and **3 Ws** take a more rounded approach to board service expectations. The Ts refer to treasure, time, and talent and the Ws refer to wealth, work, and wisdom. Besides participating in securing finances (treasure and wealth), board members are expected to participate in activities (time and work). The final important contribution is the board member's knowledge and expertise (talent and wisdom.)