GC Minimum Viable Business Architecture
Sub-Working Group (MVBA subWG)

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| Meeting date: 2022-05-25 [10h00 – 11h30]**Attendance (8)**:Anne Beausoleil (PSPC) – Chair Steven Bednikoff (HC) – *Co-Chair and initial notes*Nadine Beaudin (CSA)James Cameron (CSC)Melissa Chow (SSC)Adam Eikenberry (CIHR)Kareim Elattar (DFO)Johanne Bottrill (PSPC)  |

Notes from the discussion:

**The Group**: Organic Gathering of Anarchistic, Passionate and not-so-Anonymous Business Architects (OGAPABA) – [externally known as the MVBA subWG].

**The Mandate**: Frame and document a proposed Minimum Viable Business Architecture (MVBA) Practice in the GC context – that would apply to small, medium and large Organizations.

**Expected Outcomes**:

* *Consistency*: serves as a formal minimal baseline / lowest common denominator for a GC BA practice;
* *Accelerator*: supports smaller departments and agencies in establishing a viable and sustainable BA/EA practice.

**Key principles** framing the MVBA WG work and deliverables:

* Principle-based MVBA Framework, can’t be too specific and prescriptive;
* Allow for a flexible application: offers a “menu” / options that would fit the particular context and size of the Organization;
* Focused on the WHY/WHAT before the HOW – value proposition and purpose before models & artefacts;
* Anchored in the GC EA Framework; and
* Pragmatic (what has been proven to work); realistic (what CAN be; not SHOULD be); lucid (“*culture eats strategy for breakfast*”); Simple (easy to implement).

**Output**: A proposed actionable Minimum Viable Business Architecture (MVBA) Framework;

* A repeatable approach to prioritize the BA effort (based on the departmental context, priorities, etc.);
* BA metrics;
* BA outputs;
* BA services model / Service artefacts and integration points:
	+ with supporting BA content (such as BA artefacts and Knowledgebase);
	+ Potential services already flagged:
		- Business *clarity* service (in a broad GC and Departmental context);
		- Advising the business planning (digital portfolio); and
		- Representing the Organization to external stakeholders (to Industry).
* Expected Size / Cost of a MVBA? (ratio?); and
* Associated [extended] Roles & Responsibilities.

**Key concepts** outlined in the initial session:

* Three layers of Value: replacing the traditional “carrot vs stick” with “*local* value AND enterprise value”:
	1. ***‘Big E’ Value***: [GC value](https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/policies-standards/government-canada-enterprise-architecture-framework.html#toc01). Often the initial driver to establish the EA/BA team.
	2. ***‘Small E’ value***: Departmental value. Better Departmental performance, risk management, etc.
	3. ***‘Local’ value***: Making sure that programs and initiatives engaged with BA get value from it (the only way to make the practice sustainable).
* Scope of the BA practice based on Who it services and Where it sits:
	1. BA part of EA, serving the CIO (most of current GC BA practices & teams);
	2. BA part of EA, serving the CIO and COO/CEO (Strategic Business Architecture); or
	3. BA stand-alone, serving the CIO and COO/CEO (Enterprise Business Architecture).
* BA Practice shouldn’t rely on “selling” it – value should drive its adoption.
* BA is a lot about spending time on the problem before discussion solution; which does require a change in culture.
* Departments are still building BA practices “from scratch” in 2022 in the GC – doesn’t make any sense!
* Start with a heatmap / list of valuable items and related activities. Prioritize them.
* BA should have a strong role in demand intake and project planning at the onset.
* Make Business Architecture and EA "doable" by multiple groups on the department. Cut through the notion that EA is a closed off island that is mysterious and impractical to everyone else in the department. Particularly Business Architecture is the most "accessible" of the domains and if we can create an MVP that can be reused and adopted by multiple teams within a department then that will be a success.

**Homework:**

* Please share any BA material from your Organization that would be relevant to a MVBA (Service catalogue; Program; etc.)
* The group would like to have a few BA success stories in or applicable to a GC context

**Next Steps:**

* Refine some of the key subWG criteria above (comments from all; Steven to coordinate)
* Gather useful documentation
* Meet again – set up recurring meeting (every 6-8 weeks?)