



KAREN HECKS

VISITING EXECUTIVE

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL EXECUTIVES OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF CANADA (APEX)

Karen has had extensive experience in both the private sector and the federal government and most recently was Director General, Corporate Secretariat and Parliamentary Affairs at Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). Having joined NRCan in 2001 to establish a corporate Northern policy group, she took on various management positions in the strategic policy group including Cabinet Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs, Transition planning and implementation, and general Ministerial briefing work in support of the Deputy Minister and the Minister.

Prior to joining NRCan in 2001, Karen worked for the new Government of Nunavut. Starting on April 1st, 1999, she was the first incumbent in the position of Assistant Deputy Minister, Intergovernmental Affairs, and then became Deputy Minister of Health. Prior to the birth of Nunavut, she had been a member of the special team which set up the Headquarters bureaucracy in anticipation of the establishment of the new Territorial government, under the guidance of the Office of the Interim Commissioner.

Karen spent four years at the Privy Council Office in the Economic Secretariat, managing a range of economic and regional files, including the collapse of the cod fishery in Newfoundland, and crisis management for the Winnipeg flood.

A native of Montreal, Karen started her career in the private sector in that city, and brought her knowledge of that industry to her federal government work at Transport Canada. She joined the marine policy branch, where she established stakeholder relationships across Canada and developed key domestic marine legislation. She was also a member of a special team reporting to the Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard on oil spill response in Canadian waters. She has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from McGill University.