



At Paradigm Consulting, Best Practice in Project Management Means PRINCE2

Paradigm Consulting Group, Inc. is a Canadian firm with offices in Regina, Winnipeg, and Vancouver. Paradigm prides itself on offering its clients Best Practice methodologies for all of the services that they provide. As stated on the company web site:

To us, "best practices" are our differentiator and a significant contributor to our value proposition. Best practices represent our continued drive for excellence as we are focused on searching for new and better ways of doing things and celebrating progress - the goalposts constantly move... Our commitment to using the best practice is a commitment to our customers to using all the knowledge and expertise at our disposal to ensure success.

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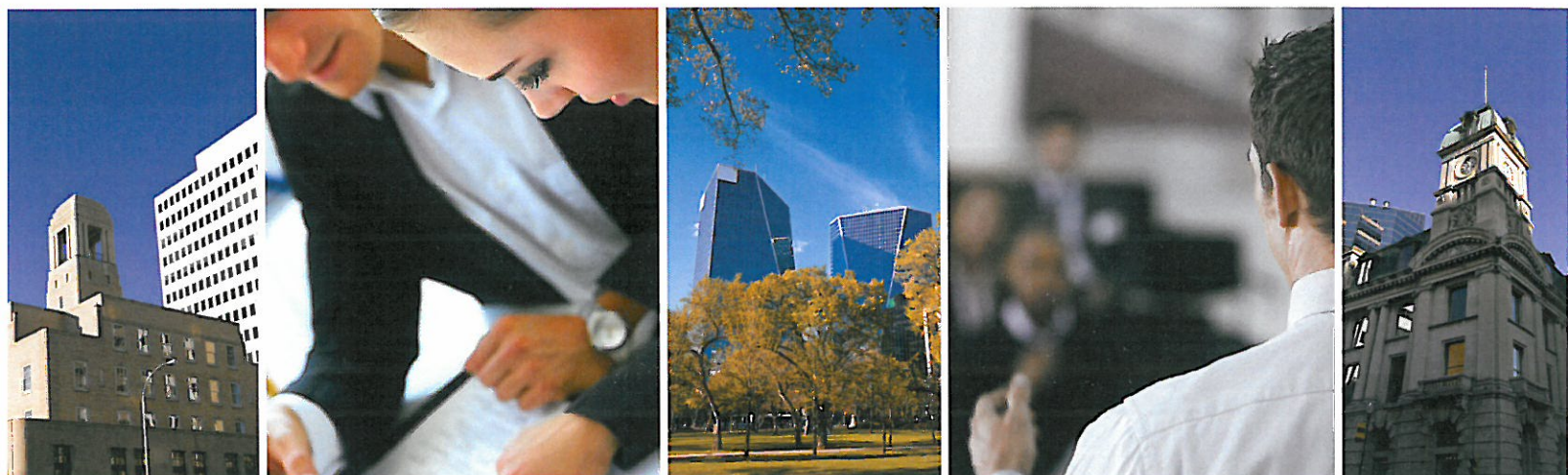
Project Management and Best Practice

With a practice area in Project Management which includes over 60 professionals embodying more than 720 collective years of experience, Paradigm has provided Project Management consulting since its founding in 1990. It was in 2000 that Project Management became established as a Best Practice team. Paradigm's practice was based upon methodologies built around PMI's Project Management Book of Knowledge (PMBOK), many of which were developed in-house.

However, Paradigm decided to further evolve its Project Management Best Practice when Manitoba eHealth, the IT arm of the health services for the province of Manitoba, adopted PRINCE2 as the methodology for their projects. Paradigm stresses the strength of their long term relationships with their customers, as well as being able to adapt to their customer requirements. The selection of PRINCE2 by Manitoba eHealth meant that Paradigm would need to get some of their consultants trained and certified in PRINCE2 if they wanted to continue their partnership with this important customer.

Better Together

Paradigm's first step was to ask the professionals in their Winnipeg office if they were interested in becoming trained in PRINCE2. Eighteen of the people in that office put up their hands to volunteer for training. And their reaction to PRINCE2 was very favorable. According to Mark Hustak, Executive Partner at Paradigm, "I was very impressed with how positive a response our team had to PRINCE2. Their assessment was that it closed some of the gaps in the methodologies we were using and gave us even more value to bring to our customer. I also decided to become PRINCE2 Practitioner certified as well"





With such an enthusiastic response, Paradigm began to train more of their Project Management professionals in PRINCE2. Paradigm created a partnership with Advantage Learning based in Edinburgh Scotland to offer training to their Saskatchewan-based customers and internal staff. As of this writing, 35 people across all three Paradigm offices have attained their PRINCE2 Practitioner certification. Further, the methodology is being deployed on in-house projects and is of interest to Paradigm's customers including: Farm Credit Corporation, the Ministry of Education, the University of Regina, and SaskPower, the principal electric power provider in the province of Saskatchewan.

Paradigm sees advantages in PRINCE2 across a number of areas. PRINCE2 helps improve project governance, better clarifies roles and responsibilities, and strengthens the development of the business case. In addition, PRINCE2 focuses on product based planning and project stage planning, which helps insure that the final deliverable is a match to the customer requirements.

Just as importantly, the adoption of PRINCE2 has had some advantages internally. Using a common methodology has increased the consistency across the different project management teams, allowing Paradigm management to more easily assess the status and health of any project. And by providing the opportunity for skills enhancement in an internationally recognized methodology, the company benefited from improved employee retention. Paradigm continues to work hard to stay ahead of the competition and abreast of the Best Practices in project management. They recently expanded the scope of their training offerings from project management to program

management. Seven Paradigm professionals were recently trained, and certified, in Managing Successful Programs (MSP), an internationally recognized Best Practice developed to manage a collection of inter-related projects to on-time and in-budget completion. This training program was also offered to Paradigm's customers.

What began out of necessity as a way of retaining a key customer has become a fundamental element to the growing value proposition which Paradigm Consulting Group brings to its customers. As Mark Hustak said "Paradigm continues to gain competitive advantage by bringing international Best Practice to our customers and our employees. Our adoption of PRINCE2 gives recognition to our leadership in Project Management consulting, and provides an important new tool we can use to improve our customers' business."

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Mark Hustak

About APMG

APMG-US accredits Training Organizations, Trainers and Consultants across the Americas and administers exams for professional certification. We are a wholly owned subsidiary of The APMG Group, Ltd, the official accreditor for PRINCE2®, an internationally recognized standard for Project Management. PRINCE2 (Projects IN Controlled Environments), is a scalable and flexible project management method that navigates you through all the essentials for successfully running any type of project.

PRINCE2 underwent a full refresh in June, 2009 to more fully address today's project environment. More than 170

organizations contributed their experiences and ideas to the refresh process. PRINCE2 reflects the Best Practices of leading project management practitioners worldwide and can enhance the credentials and careers of project management professionals.

For more information on PRINCE2, or how to become an accredited PRINCE2 training organization, please contact APMG at 781.275.8604 or info-US@apmg-US.com

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