



March 23, 2024

Cliff 277418

Dear Chairs of Public Sector Organizations,

Please review the following information regarding Election Candidate Policy.

BC Public Appointees - Election Candidacy Policy

Overview

Individuals who hold elected positions at the municipal, provincial, or federal level are generally not appointed to public sector organizations. However, someone who is appointed to a public sector organization may choose to run for an elected position. This decision could create a conflict of interest, whether real or perceived, with their role as a provincial public sector appointee. This policy aims to establish a clear assessment and decision-making process for addressing any conflicts that may arise when a member seeks elected office.

Policy

If an existing public appointee is running for public office, they must take a leave of absence effective not later than the date of the writ. The Board Chair is responsible for assessing any real or perceived conflicts of interest once the member goes public with their campaign and the member may be asked to take a leave earlier.

If an existing Board member is elected they will be expected to resign their appointment.

If an existing Board member's term is up for re-appointment, and they have indicated they are seeking public office, the re-appointment will be put on hold until after the election.

If a potential candidate for a Board position indicates they are seeking public office, their candidacy will be put on hold until after the election.

Members must disclose to the Board Chair if they are seeking public office and the Board Chair must disclose this information to the governance committee, ministry and CABRO.

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General conduct principles for public appointees and conflict of interest information can be found [here](#).

Assessment and Decision-Making Process

1. Appointed member discloses their intent to run for an elected position in a municipal, provincial or federal election to the Board Chair.
2. The Board Chair or governance committee will assess any real or perceived conflict of interest that may arise before the writ period. The member will take a leave of absence at the writ or before if the Chair or governance committee assesses there is risk of conflict of interest.
3. The assessment, relevant reasons and/or terms for leave put in place before the writ will be documented by the Board Chair or governance committee and shared with the Ministry and CABRO.
4. The Board Chair informs CABRO of any member seeking election, together with their assessment and decision on leave period via email (ABC@gov.bc.ca).
5. CABRO informs the ministry and/or Minister of the decision as appropriate.
6. If a Board Chair is seeking election, they will notify CABRO and CABRO will carry out the assessment of conflict and determine timing of leave.

Sincerely,

Sec. 22 FOIPPA - Disclosure harmful to personal privacy

Mary Sue Maloughney
Associate Deputy Minister
Crown Agencies Secretariat
Ministry of Finance

Cc: Tribunal Chairs