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| West Neighbourhood House | |
| Policy Title: | Board Political Activity |
| Approved by: | West Neighbourhood House Board of Directors |
| Approval date: | January 2019 |
| Revision dates: | / / / / |

Policy Statement

Board members shall uphold the non-partisan nature of the work of the West Neighbourhood House and ensure their personal political interests and activities remain separate and distinct from their duties as a Board member. As a not-for-profit organization working in the community, it is imperative that West Neighbourhood House maintains positive working relationships across the political spectrum to enable its ability to advocate on behalf of its clients, members and community members on important social issues.

West Neighbourhood House recognizes the right of its Board members to have an interest in and participate in political activities outside their commitments to West Neighbourhood House. These activities must be balanced against West Neighbourhood House’s legitimate interest in having a community organization that is not formally or informally associated with any political party. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Board members understand which personal political activities are permitted, which ones are not, and which activities require prior approval.

Applicability

- Board Members

Definitions

Board Member

A volunteer member of the elected Board of Directors

Political Activity

Political activity includes:

- Doing anything to support or oppose a political party;
- Doing anything to support or oppose a candidate in a federal, provincial, or municipal election;
- Seeking nomination or being a candidate in a federal, provincial, or municipal election;
- Seeking appointment to a municipal council or school board; or
- Canvassing or campaigning on a municipal referendum question.

Permitted Political Activities

Board members retain their rights to participate personally in the political process through individual activities that do not imply endorsement by West Neighbourhood House.

Examples of permitted activities include the following, provided such support cannot be associated, or perceived to be associated, with the West Neighbourhood House:

- Supporting a candidate or a political party by displaying political material such as a picture, sticker, badge or button, or placing a sign on the lawn or by canvassing by person or by phone;
- Attending political rallies, meetings, and fund-raising events;
- Signing nominating documents for a candidate for partisan elected office;
- Donating money to a political candidate or party;
- Being a member of a political party registered in Ontario or federally in Canada.

Prohibited Political Activities

West Neighbourhood House Board members will not imply endorsement by West Neighbourhood House when engaging in political activity.

Examples of prohibited activities include:

- Using West Neighbourhood House resources, including facilities, equipment or supplies while engaging in Political Activity;
- Using their title or position within West Neighbourhood House in a way that would reasonably lead a member of the public to infer that West Neighbourhood House is endorsing or opposing a candidate, political party, or registered third-party advertiser.

Non-compliance Implications

Failure to comply with this policy could negatively impact the West Neighbourhood House's reputation and its ability to work effectively with government. Board Members breaching this policy may be asked to resign from the Board of Directors.

Related Policies

Please also have reference to the following West Neighbourhood House Policies:

- [Advocacy Policy](#)
- [Conflict of Interest Policy](#)