

West Neighbourhood House	
Policy Title:	Workplace Harassment Policy
Approved by:	West Neighbourhood House Board of Directors
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Policy Statement

West Neighbourhood House is committed to providing a work environment in which all individuals are treated equitably and with respect and dignity.

Workplace harassment, which includes workplace sexual harassment, racial harassment (including specifically anti-black racism), will not be tolerated from any person in the workplace. Everyone in the workplace must be dedicated to preventing workplace harassment. Managers, supervisors and workers are expected to uphold this policy, and the employer will be responsible for holding them accountable.

Applicability

- All Staff

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Respectful Workplace Policy which applies to the general public, program participants, clients, members, volunteers, student placements, community groups who utilize West Neighbourhood House space, donors, and third-party contractors.

Definition

Workplace harassment means engaging in vexatious comment(s) or conduct against any staff in a workplace.

For the purposes of this policy:

- **Harassment** is defined speech and/or behaviour that is known or ought to be reasonably known to be unwelcome. Such behaviour humiliates, insults, excludes or degrades another person or people, often for reasons including sex, race, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or family status or disability. It may be intentional or unintentional and can be physical or verbal, passive or aggressive and can come in the form of microaggressions.
- Microaggressions are defined as the everyday, subtle, intentional — and oftentimes unintentional — interactions or behaviors that communicate some sort of bias toward

historically marginalized groups. The difference between micro-aggressions and overt discrimination or macroaggressions, is that people who commit microaggressions might not even be aware of them.

- “Vexatious” is defined as causing, tending to cause or reasonably expecting to cause distress, annoyance, frustration, worry or personal and emotional insecurity.
- “Workplace” is defined as any land, premises, location or thing at, upon, in or near which a worker works. It includes, but is not limited to, the physical work premises (e.g. offices), work-related social functions (e.g. parties, retreats, etc.), work assignments outside West Neighbourhood House’s offices and work-related travel, conferences or training sessions.

Workplace sexual harassment means engaging vexatious comment(s) or conduct against a worker in a workplace related to sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, where the course of comment or conduct is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome. Workplace sexual harassment also means making a sexual solicitation or advance, including but not limited to where the person making the solicitation or advance is in a position to confer, grant or deny a benefit or advancement to the worker and/or the person knows or ought reasonably to know that the solicitation or advance is unwelcome.

Racial harassment includes speech and behaviour, whether intentional or unintentional, that creates an environment that is hostile, offensive or toxic to racialized people in general, or to specific racialized groups. It can range from micro-aggressions to explicit use of, or tolerance for, racial slurs, offensive or derogatory remarks about a person’s race or color, or the display of racially offensive symbols. Racial harassment is speech or behaviour that is bothersome, threatening or treating co-workers unfairly because of their perceived race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, ethnic origin, creed and/or citizenship. Racial harassment includes speech and behaviour that reinforces systemic forms of discrimination and bias.

Racial harassment does not include special measures that the organization may take for the purpose of securing adequate advancement for racial or ethnic groups or individuals who live with systemic discrimination.

Harassment may also relate to a form of discrimination as set out in the Ontario Human Rights Code, but it does not have to.

General Principles and Procedures

Workplace harassment occurring within the context of an employment relationship may involve conduct that is verbal or non-verbal, a single incident or a series of incidents. Workplace harassment can be directed at a co-worker, subordinate or manager.

There are [workplace violence and harassment procedures](#) that implement this policy. They include measures and procedures for making complaints, having them investigated and seeking remedies that address the incident.

Workers are encouraged to attempt to resolve issues informally with the individual with whom they have a concern. However, where the worker feels that resolving the matter informally is not possible or appropriate the worker should report any incidents of workplace harassment to Human Resources or their supervisor.

Management will investigate and address all concerns, complaints, or incidents of workplace harassment in a fair and timely manner while respecting workers' privacy as much as possible. Where the worker believes that they have been the subject of workplace harassment by a member of management other than Executive Director, the worker is encouraged to contact the Executive Director to report the incident.

Where the worker believes that they have observed or has been the subject of workplace harassment by the Executive Director, the worker is encouraged to contact the President of the Board of Directors to report the incident. The President of the Board of Directors, or designate, shall investigate and address the concern, complaint or incident in accordance with West Neighbourhood House's procedures under this policy.

No worker or any other individual associated with West Neighbourhood House shall subject any other person to workplace harassment. A worker that subjects another worker or other person to workplace harassment may be subject to disciplinary action including termination. Other persons may be removed from the workplace.



Executive Director

May 27, 2021

Date

The Workplace Violence Policy should be consulted whenever there are concerns about violence in the workplace.