



Fair Représentation
Vote équitable
Canada au Canada

Fair Vote Canada

Conflict of Interest Policy

As approved by National Council 2013-04-06

Effective non-profit governance depends on thoughtful and fair decision-making by those in positions of authority. The ability to make good decisions is sometimes affected by other interests - personal or professional - of individuals. One cannot eliminate conflicts of interest - they are a regular part of organizational and personal life. The objective of this policy is to permit Fair Vote Canada to manage potential conflicts of interest successfully, when they do occur, because serious conflicts of interest can damage Fair Vote Canada's credibility or reputation and compromise its ability to fulfill its mission.

Definitions

Organization - a corporation, non-profit, co-operative, movement or group of people that is structured and managed to meet a need or to pursue collective goals, other than a political party.

Official - an individual who holds an elected or other office, function or mandate in Fair Vote Canada, who may represent the organization publicly and who may participate in the exercise of authority. This includes national Directors, Chapter Executives, team or caucus leaders, employees, individuals appointed to a position within Fair Vote Canada, and similar positions.

National Council - the board of Directors of Fair Vote Canada.

Conflicts of Interest

A conflict of interest arises when an official of Fair Vote Canada is able to influence a decision or policy, whether by official vote or moral and/or intellectual persuasion, and is liable to gain:

personal advantage from the outcome of the decision in which they are involved; and/or advantage for an organization with which the individual is directly involved.

Directors may also be Chapter Executive members. This is not regarded as a conflict for the purpose of this policy except where the National Council is discussing a question of financial advantage to a particular Chapter.

Duty

While this policy does not impose duties on members, Fair Vote Canada's officials have a duty to avoid conflicts of interest.

Declarations of Conflict

When an official within Fair Vote Canada perceives that he or she has a conflict or potential conflict of interest on a particular motion or matter that person must:
disclose the conflict or potential conflict;
leave the meeting while the matter creating the conflict is being dealt with;
take no part in any discussion or voting with respect to the matter creating the conflict;
and
not attempt to influence others within Fair Vote Canada on the matter.

Inherent conflicts of interest

A conflict of interest also arises when an official within Fair Vote Canada has outside duties, interests or obligations that may or do differ fundamentally from those as an official of Fair Vote Canada. If the outside duties, interests or obligations differ fundamentally from Fair Vote Canada's interests, and it is apparent to National Council that the person cannot act on the outside interests without acting against the interests of Fair Vote Canada, he or she is in an inherent conflict of interest and should resign from elected office or employment within Fair Vote Canada. If a resignation is not forthcoming, the National Council may initiate their removal from office in accordance with the Bylaws of FVC or terminate their employment in accordance with their employment agreement. In the case of a Chapter, the board of directors of the Chapter may initiate such removal or termination.

Employment

Fair Vote Canada's elected officials are not eligible for employment with Fair Vote Canada during their tenure. If an elected official wishes to apply for employment, he or she must immediately withdraw from active participation on National Council or the Chapter Executive. If the elected official is the successful candidate, he or she must resign or take a leave of absence for the duration of the employment from elected office before accepting the position.

Misrepresentation

Officials of Fair Vote Canada will not speak publicly on electoral reform matters in such a way that the comments could be perceived to be an official representation of Fair Vote

Canada unless the comments reflect Fair Vote Canada policy, or unless authorized to do so by the Fair Vote Canada Executive or the Executive Director of Fair Vote Canada.

Non-compliance

If an official of Fair Vote Canada or a Chapter is in a continued conflict of interest or violates this policy National Council may initiate their removal from office and/or membership in accordance with the Bylaws of FVC , or, in the case of a Chapter, its directors may initiate their removal in accordance with the constitution or bylaws of the Chapter . If, in the opinion of National Council, a Chapter has failed to take appropriate measures, the National Council may terminate the official's membership in accordance with the Bylaws of Fair Vote Canada, or terminate the Chapter's Chapter Agreement, in its discretion.

Common Sense Provision

The application of any part of this policy shall rely on the common sense of the group as a whole. Conflict of interest circumstances vary, and the judgement and flexibility of the National Council, committee or working group dealing with conflicts of interest must be preserved.