

COMMUNITY LIVING DURHAM NORTH

CONFLICT OF INTEREST - BOARD MEMBERS

Policy No: A-18 (Governance)

Effective Date: July 31, 2007

Last Revision: April 28, 2022

Last Review:

Rationale:

To ensure organizational integrity and sound governance.

Policy Statement:

The Board of Directors will scrupulously observe the Conflict of Interest provisions in the Association's by-laws and in our Service Contract with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. The provisions in the by-laws are detailed in 6.10 'Conflict of Interest.'

Broadly speaking, the intent here is to ensure that participation on CLDN's Board does not confer any untoward benefit (e.g., a commercial advantage that effectively nullifies our commitment to fair and transparent procurement practices; or undue influence that leads to real or perceived nepotism)

A conflict can be created by an ill-advised action and of course these need to be guarded against. More often, conflicts are situational (e.g., CLDN initiates dealings with a firm in which, coincidentally, a Board member has a personal interest). This kind of conflict must be disclosed as soon as it becomes known, because once known it can generally be managed. In a voting situation, for example, the member might be required to leave the room, or to simply not vote.

A potential conflict unique to our sector arises when a Board member is related to a person receiving our services. But we welcome family members onto the board because they bring an important perspective, and the resulting conflict is very manageable. CLDN's board does not normally involve itself in day-to-day program issues or inquire into the circumstances of individual people.

Every board member is expected to act in the best interest of the organization, and by avoiding conflicts of interest we maintain the objectivity that is necessary to the task. To this end, the Chair will expressly solicit conflict of interest declarations in connection with the agenda of all Board and Committee meetings.

Approved by: Clare Suggitt  
for the Board of Directors

Date: April 28, 2022