

CABRO Guidelines on Public Board Members Seeking Elected Office

Overview

As a general best practice, people elected to municipal, provincial or federal office are not appointed to boards of B.C. public sector organizations. However, appointed board members do sometimes run for public office which may place them in a real, potential or perceived conflict of interest. These guidelines set out expectations for board members and chairs seeking elected office in order to mitigate any conflict as much as possible.

Conflict of Interest principles for public appointees can be found [here](#).

Guidelines

Board members seeking public office are responsible for:

- disclosing their intention to the board chair – preferably before but when public announcement made;
- taking a leave of absence effective no later than the date of the writ (Day 1 of the election), or earlier if requested by the chair.

If an existing member is elected, best practice is that they will resign from their appointment.

Chairs seeking public office are responsible for:

- notifying CABRO and the chair of the board's Governance Committee;
- taking a leave of absence consistent with the above noted guidelines for members.

If a chair is elected, best practice is that they will resign from their appointment.

Re-appointments

If a member seeking elected office is at the end of an existing term and they are eligible for re-appointment, consideration of the re-appointment will be put on hold and the vacancy will not be filled until after the election.

If the member is not elected, the chair will confirm, after consultation with the member, whether the member is still interested in serving on the board, and if they are recommended for re-appointment.

The board chair is responsible for:

- assessing any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest once a member goes public with their campaign;
- disclosing the member's intent to seek elected office to the board Governance Committee;
- notifying CABRO in writing of the member's intent and chair's decision regarding timing of the member's leave of absence.

CABRO is responsible for:

- assessing any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest once a board chair goes public with their campaign;
- requesting that the chair step down from their role, or to take a leave of absence from the board, as appropriate;
- informing the responsible ministry and Minister of a member or chair's Conflict of Interest and leave of absence, as appropriate;
- placing a person's board candidacy on hold if the person is seeking public office, with the option of re-instating candidacy after the election.

Please send all inquiries about these Guidelines to CABRO at ABC@gov.bc.ca.