



CODE OF CONDUCT

St. Lawrence Parks Commission Directors of the Board Code of Conduct

1. PURPOSE AND APPLICATION

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards of conduct governing the professional and ethical responsibilities of the Board of Commissioners of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission (so named as Directors in this document) from the beginning of their term of appointment and ongoing obligations as an appointee. It addresses the principles of good conduct, collegial responsibility and personal conduct. Appointees are responsible for applying an appropriate standard of conduct and acting in an ethical and professional manner.

The principles set out in this code are founded on the professional and ethical values of public service, which are set to uphold the public trust.

This Code of Conduct does not refer to appointees' legislated obligations regarding a conflict of interest or political activity rights and obligations. Please refer to the Public Service of Ontario Act, 2006 and its regulations. Also, it is not intended to conflict with any legal or professional requirements.

2. PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

Compliance with Laws: Directors shall act in accordance with all applicable laws and shall comply with the spirit and intent of the law.

Directors shall not commit or condone an unethical or illegal act or invoke another to do so.

Directors shall be familiar with legislation, policies and directives that apply to their work and the work of the agency in order to comply with or facilitate others' compliance with applicable laws.

Directors are expected to recognize potential liabilities and to know when to recommend seeking legal or retaining other professional advice such as risk management specialists, insurance specialists, auditors, etc., as necessary to make fully informed decisions.

Fairness / Courtesy: Directors shall treat others with dignity and respect in a manner that builds trust.

Accessibility: Directors shall be aware and respectful of social and cultural differences. In the course of their duties they shall act in a manner that promotes an appreciation of diversity.

Directors must be sensitive to potential barriers to accessibility.

Timeliness: Directors shall be aware of the agency's business cycles and act in a timely manner to address matters facing the agency to maximize effect and effort and mitigate risk.



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Directors shall be aware of and ensure that agency accountability obligations are met within specified timelines.

Quality and Consistency: Directors shall fulfill their duties to develop and monitor the direction and performance of the agency by setting the goals, objectives and strategic directions for the agency within its mandate.

Directors shall commit the time and effort required for the work of the Board.

Directors shall with diligence contribute their unique skills, experience and advice to the Board.

Directors shall, in the conduct of their duties, actively engage in discussion and be constructively probative in deliberations of the Board.

Transparency: Directors shall ensure that Board duties are executed in a manner that is transparent and seen to be fair, and would bear close public scrutiny.

Directors shall act in a transparent and accountable manner regarding their personal and professional actions, in such a fashion that actions would bear close public scrutiny.

Duty of Loyalty: Directors shall uphold their fiduciary duties of loyalty to the agency and to the Board by acting honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the agency. No other personal or professional interests can take precedence to this obligation.

Directors shall uphold their obligation to act in the public interest.

Directors who have been appointed to the Board to be reflective of a stakeholder group/region/special interest have the same duty of care and loyalty to the agency as other directors. Their primary duty is to act in the best interests of the agency.

Expertise / Competence: Directors must exercise a duty of care to the agency by acting with diligence and skill.

Directors shall maintain the professional competence and knowledge required to discharge their obligations and duties.

Directors shall remain current in the field by participating in ongoing professional development.



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Optimal Cost: Directors shall respect the public trust by ensuring plans and initiatives of the Board strike the right balance between a prudent use of agency resources and the provision of quality services to the public.

Directors shall insist on value to public money and exercise transparent controllership concerning the agency's use and treatment of public funds.

Integrity: Directors shall act with honesty, integrity and high ethical standards in personal and professional matters.

Directors shall not engage in conduct that exploits their position.

Directors shall personally and professionally conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the nature of their responsibilities and the maintenance of public confidence.

Collegiality: Directors shall foster a collegial working environment and conduct themselves in a manner that reinforces the integrity and professionalism of the agency.

Directors shall conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for different perspectives, builds on the contribution of others and constructively puts forward alternative considerations.

Directors shall act in a manner that builds trust among Board members.

Directors are expected to share their knowledge and expertise with other appointees.

Directors shall support final decisions of the Board.

Objectivity / Impartiality: Directors shall approach Board deliberations with respect for debate, an ability to think independently and the desire to reach consensus.

Directors shall be independent from management in their decision-making roles.

Confidentiality: Directors, in the course of their duties, shall consider the privacy interests of individuals and act in accordance with applicable laws.

Directors shall not disclose information that the agency holds as confidential. This includes all matters that are discussed during the In Camera session of the Board meetings.

Directors shall not take advantage of confidential information obtained through official duties.



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Directors shall follow agency protocols for communicating in the media and shall not do so without the prior approval of the Board.

Directors shall use the lines of communication as follows: Staff to General Manager/CEO; Directors to Chair.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Each Director shall adhere to this Code of Conduct and commit to supporting standards set out in applicable legislation, policies or guidelines.

Directors shall review and reaffirm their commitment to and compliance with the agency's Code of Conduct upon initial appointment and on a regular basis thereafter.