

This policy is meant to complement a conflict-of-interest policy and cover a number of conduct issues including the matter of board confidentiality. It could be designed as a form for new board members to date and sign.

Board Members' Code of Conduct

The board of directors is committed to teamwork and effective decision-making. Towards this end board members will:

- Endeavour to represent the broader interests of members and/or stakeholders
- Seek to balance their contribution as both an advisor and learner.
- Refrain from trying to influence other board members outside of board meetings that might have the effect of creating factions and limiting free and open discussion.
- Be willing to be a dissenting voice, endeavor to build on other director's ideas, offer alternative points of view as options to be considered and invite others to do so too
- On important issues, be balanced in one's effort to understand other board members and to make oneself understood.
- Once a board decision is made, support the decision even if one's own view is a minority one.
- Not disclose or discuss differences of opinion on the board with those who are not on the board. The board should communicate externally with "one voice".
- Respect the confidentiality of information on sensitive issues, especially in personnel matters.
- Be an advocate for the organization and its mission wherever and whenever the opportunity arises in their own personal and professional networks.
- Disclose one's involvement with other organizations, businesses or individuals where such a relationship could be viewed as a conflict of interest (see Conflict of Interest Policy).
- Refrain from giving direction, as an individual board member, to the executive director or any member of staff.
- Refrain from investigating or discussing the executive director's performance with staff members particularly outside the context of the board's regular ED evaluation.

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