

Podochodo Department of Finance Kiinauyaliqiyikkut Ministère des Finances

## POLITICAL ACTIVITY (Federal Election) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can I be a member of a political party?

Yes.

Can I attend political meetings?

Yes.

Can I contribute money to a candidate or political party?

Yes.

While at work, can I be involved in political activity including display/distribute campaign literature, wear a button, solicit funds or use GN equipment for political activity?

No. Government of Nunavut (GN) public servants are not permitted to participate in any of these activities while at work, which includes duty travel.

Does living in GN-subsidized housing limit my ability to be politically active and put up campaign signs in my home?

No.

## When I am not at work, why can't I be involved in any political activity I want?

You can be involved in many political activities after work but as a public servant, you must be, and be viewed by others as being, politically impartial in your work. You cannot be involved in any political activity that conflicts with your position. You cannot use your public service position outside of work to publicly endorse a candidate or attempt to affect the political activity of any other person. When considering whether to engage in a non-candidacy political activity, you should consider the following factors:

- The nature of your current public service duties within your organizational context;
- The level and visibility of your position; and
- The nature of the political activity.

See the <u>Nunavut Public Service Code of Values and Ethics</u> to learn more about the duties of public servants both during and away from work.

I want to help out with a campaign. Can I be a campaign manager, financial agent or official agent?

Yes provided you let your deputy head (DH) know in advance (use <u>Form B</u> attached to HRM Directive 204 Conflict of Interest Political Activity).

If you fall in the definition of restricted employee (\*see below), you will need to obtain the approval of your DH to be a financial agent, official agent of an executive officer of a political party while continuing to work.

If you are a restricted employee\* you will need to obtain a leave of absence to be a campaign manager, solicit funds or express your views publicly on matters directly related to your position (use <u>Form A</u> attached to <u>HRM Directive 204 Conflict of Interest Political Activity</u>).

#### Can I be a candidate in a federal election?

Yes. You will need to let your DH know in advance (use <u>Form B</u> attached to <u>HRM Directive 204 Conflict of Interest Political Activity)</u>. If you are a restricted employee\* you will need to obtain a leave of absence (use <u>Form A</u> attached to <u>HRM Directive 204 Conflict of Interest Political Activity)</u>.

## When do I have to tell my DH about my involvement in political activity?

You must give your deputy head notice in writing with a description of the activity and dates before the start of the activity, which, if you are a candidate means the date the election is called. Notice, request for approval or a request for a leave of absence must be given before the start of the activity in accordance with <a href="https://example.com/hrm.nc/hr

## Can I solicit funds for a candidate or political party after work?

Yes, unless you are a restricted employee\* in which case you may solicit funds for a candidate or political party only if you obtain a leave of absence.

## Can I comment publically on GN policy that is NOT related to my work?

Yes, but you may not do anything that would interfere or be perceived as interfering with your abilities as a public servant to be impartial. If you are a restricted employee\*, you must obtain a leave of absence to do so. See the <a href="Nunavut Public Service Code of Values and Ethics">Nunavut Public Service Code of Values and Ethics</a> for more information on this issue.

# Can I publically speak or write in support or criticism of a candidate, political party, positions or policies?

Yes, unless you are a restricted employee\* in which case you must obtain a leave of absence to do so.

## How can I apply for a leave of absence to get involved in political activity?

To obtain a leave of absence, use <u>Form A</u> found in the Appendix of <u>HRM Directive 204</u> <u>Conflict of Interest (Political Activity).</u> You must have your leave credits verified before submitting the leave form to the DH. The leave form should be submitted at least two weeks before the start date of the political activity.

#### What type of leave can I use for political activity?

You may use your accumulated or banked leave. This includes annual and lieu-time or you may use leave without pay. You may not use special leave during political activity. The leave of absence will start on the first day that the activity starts which is usually when the election writ is issued and end on the day the election results are officially declared.

# \*Restricted employees are:

- 1. deputy heads;
- 2. heads of secretariats of the Executive Council;
- 3. assistant deputy ministers;
- 4. associate deputy ministers;
- 5. directors;
- 6. executive directors;
- 7. a position in a public body substantially equivalent to a position identified in (1) to (6); and
- 8. Executive Council staff, other than secretarial staff or clerical staff.