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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

POLITICAL ACTIVITY (Territorial Election)
Frequently Asked Questions

How does the Public Service Act affect political activity?

The Public Service Act clarified and reduces the restrictions on public servants who want to be involved in political activity. The changes reflect the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and standards of practice in other Canadian provinces and territories.

Can I be a candidate in a territorial election?

Yes, provided you obtain a leave of absence. Use Form A found in the Appendix of HRM Directive 204 Conflict of Interest (Political Activity).

Can I solicit funds for a candidate or political party when I am not at work?

Yes, if you are an unrestricted employee. If you are a restricted employee (see the list below) you may solicit funds for a candidate or political party only if you obtain a leave of absence. An employee cannot solicit funds for a candidate or political party while at work, at any GN office, or on duty travel.

Who are unrestricted employees?

Unrestricted employees are GN employees, including teachers, who do not fit into the definition of restricted employees.

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

If you are an unrestricted employee, before you get involved, you must notify your deputy head.

If you are a restricted employee, depending on the political activity, you must apply for approval from your deputy head or Minister, and/or obtain a leave of absence. Please review sections 23 and 24 of the HRM Directive 204 Conflict of Interest (Political Activity).

How do I give notice to my deputy head?

You must give your supervisor and deputy head notice in writing with a description of the activity and dates. Notice must be given before the start of the activity. To notify your deputy head, use Form B in the Appendix of HRM Directive 204 Conflict of Interest (Political Activity).

Can I comment publically on government policy outside the scope of my work?

Yes, unless you are a restricted employee, in which case, you must obtain a leave of absence.

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.

Can I attend political meetings?

Yes.

Can I be a member of a political party?

Yes.

Can I contribute money to a candidate or political party?

Yes.

While at work, can I engage in political activity, display/distribute campaign literature, wear a button or use GN equipment for political activity?

No, an employee cannot engage in any of these activities while at work or on duty travel at any time.

While living in GN subsidized housing, can I engage in political activity and/or put up campaign signs in my home?

Yes.

How can I apply for a leave of absence to engage in political activity?

To obtain a leave of absence, use Form A found in the Appendix of HRM Directive 204 Conflict of Interest (Political Activity). You must have your leave credits verified before submitting the leave form to the deputy head. The leave form must be submitted at least two weeks prior to 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, lieu-time and deferred leave 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 and end on the day the election is 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.