



POLITICAL ACTIVITY (Territorial Election) Frequently Asked Questions

How does the new Public Service Act affect political activity?

The new 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.

