

## **Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct of the Members of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement**

### **GENERAL**

#### **CONDUCT**

1. Members of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement shall fulfil their role with integrity, to the best of their ability, in a way that is above reproach.
2. Members shall perform their duties exclusively. However, they may, with the permission of the president of the Bureau, carry out educational activities for which they may be remunerated, or unremunerated activities for non-profit organizations.
3. Members shall refrain from performing any act that may detract from their own image and credibility or those of the Bureau.
4. Members shall notify the president of the Bureau of any situation that may taint their own credibility or that of the Bureau.
5. Members shall be politically neutral in the performance of their duties.
6. Members shall refrain from making undue use of their title or status.
7. Members shall comply with the law, and shall observe the Bureau's rules of procedure and follow its policy.
8. When making decisions concerning the proper operation of a commission, members shall apply the principle of sound management of human, financial and material resources.

#### **INDEPENDENCE**

9. Members shall avoid any situation involving a conflict of interest.

10. Members shall avoid placing themselves in a position that could entail a situation involving a conflict of interest or cause them to be in a vulnerable position.

If in doubt, they shall notify the president of the Bureau.

11. Every year, each member shall provide the President of the Bureau with a statement indicating the nature of his or her financial interests.
12. Before being formally appointed by the president of the Bureau to sit on a commission or act as a mediator, a member shall inform the president of any situation that may taint his or her credibility.
13. Members shall not use, for their own benefit or that of a third party, information obtained during the course of their duties.
14. Members shall not accept any gift, mark of hospitality or other benefit unless it is conventional practice to do so, and unless the gift, mark of hospitality or other benefit is of little value.

In addition, members shall not, directly or indirectly, grant, solicit or accept a favour or an undue benefit for themselves or for a third party.

15. Members shall not mix the property of the Bureau with their own property, nor shall they use it for their own benefit or for the benefit of a third party.
16. When making a decision, members shall not be influenced by the prospect or offer of a job.
17. Members shall consider any attempt to interfere with their work as being unacceptable and intolerable.
18. Members who have ceased to carry out

their duties shall not garner undue benefits because of their previous duties with the Bureau.

19. Members who have ceased to perform their duties shall not disclose confidential information obtained in the course of those duties, nor may they use information not available to the public for their own benefit or for the benefit of a third party.

#### **DUTY OF RESERVE**

20. Members shall show reserve in the public expression of their political opinions.
21. Members shall exercise discretion with respect to information that comes to their attention in the performance of their duties and shall be required, at all times, to respect the confidential nature of all such information.
22. Members shall show reserve in the public expression of their opinions concerning controversial environment-related projects.

23. Members shall refrain from making public their position in respect of any project that is being examined by the Bureau or that may be examined by it in the foreseeable future.
24. Members shall not make comments on reports prepared by the Bureau.
25. Members shall refrain, for the duration of their term as members of the Bureau, from commenting in public on decisions relating to a project on which the Bureau has prepared a report.

At the end of their term as members of the Bureau, members shall refrain from commenting in public on decisions relating to a project examined by the Bureau during the period in which they were members.

#### **SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR INQUIRIES, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIATIONS**

26. Commissioners shall have no personal interest in matters that are assigned to them.
27. Commissioners shall act and shall be seen to act with detachment and impartiality.
28. Commissioners shall avoid all situations in which their independence and impartiality could be questioned. If they unexpectedly find themselves in such a situation, they shall notify the chair of the commission and the president of the Bureau.
29. Commissioners shall observe the rules of procedural fairness and shall act at all times with the greatest transparency.
30. Commissioners shall avoid all private meetings with proponents or applicants, except in the cases provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the Bureau and in cases where a commission must hold a hearing to decide on a question of confidentiality.
31. Commissioners shall become as familiar as possible with the file and shall do what is required to complete the analysis within the deadline set.

32. Commissioners shall show reserve, courtesy, composure and consideration towards all participants in inquiries, public hearings and environmental mediations.
33. Commissioners shall foster mutual respect among the persons attending or taking part in the commission's work.
34. Commissioners shall encourage interested parties to participate fully.
35. Commissioners shall foster public access to information, help the public to understand projects and encourage them to express their opinions freely.
36. Commissioners shall, at all times, maintain the confidentiality of the commission's deliberations.
37. Commissioners shall maintain the confidentiality of the commission's report until such time as it is made public.

#### **PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO PART-TIME MEMBERS**

38. The provisions of this Code shall apply to supplementary part-time members of the Bureau, except for sections 11 and 23. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the discretion required under sections 24 and 25 applies only to reports prepared by the commissions to which the supplementary part-time member belonged, and to decisions respecting the projects studied by those commissions.