



## **Being Non-Partisan**

### **Returning Officers and all other Elections Officers of Elections New Brunswick**

Elections New Brunswick (ENB) is a non-partisan Office of the Legislative Assembly. Due to the nature of this role and the strict requirements for impartiality in order to build and sustain public confidence in the organization, Returning Officers and all other Election Officers must be and appear to be non-partisan and avoid open participation in partisan political activity. This policy is not meant in any way to interfere with an employee's rights but focuses on the collective responsibilities and public expectations of the organization as a whole.

It is essential that all staff be, and appear to be, impartial in the conduct of their duties. This policy extends from the time you take your oath of office until the conclusion of your appointment.

#### **Political Activity**

Political activity includes campaigning, canvassing, solicitation of funds, writing political material, or attending politically sponsored meetings, suppers, or rallies on behalf of a candidate or political party in a federal, provincial, municipal or school board election or at any time between elections.

Returning Officers and all other Election Officers must avoid any public affiliation with a political party and must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Avoid situations where the employee's position may have an impact, or be seen to have an impact, on any political activity.
- Do not use taxpayer-funded facilities or resources in support of any political activities.
- Do not use ENB responsibilities to support, or be seen to support, one political candidate or stance over another.
- Do not use position to lend weight to the public expression of personal opinions, nor to divulge any confidential information.

#### **Public Comments**

Returning Officers and all other Election Officers must also exercise caution when commenting publicly on political issues to ensure that they do not jeopardize the perception of impartiality in the performance of their duties. For this reason, you should avoid making public comments or engaging into public debate regarding government and ENB policies.

#### **Social Media**

Social media includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat and other similar platforms.

The obligation on Returning Officers and all other Election Officers to be impartial in the conduct of their duties extends to their social media presence. In posting to your own social media account or in commenting on the accounts of others, you should avoid any public affiliation with a political party as indicated above under "Political Activity". You should exercise caution on social media when commenting on political issues to ensure your comments do not jeopardize the perception of impartiality in the performance of your duties. You should avoid making comments or engaging in debate on social media regarding government and ENB policies.

ENB should be the sole source of public communication of election event information. Returning Officers and all other Election Officers should refrain from posting on social media their own messages or comments regarding election event information. However, you may re-post, unaltered, information and messages on social media that originate with ENB.