



POLITICAL ACTIVITY RULES

Public servants *cannot*:

- Engage in political activity in the workplace
- Use government premises, equipment or supplies for political activity
- Associate their position with political activity (unless as a candidate and then only to limited extent)
- Engage in political activity while wearing a government uniform



What can public servants do?



Most public servants can engage in political activity outside of work. However, the following activities can be undertaken only when on unpaid leave of absence:

- Be a federal or provincial candidate
- Comment publicly on matters dealt with in the position or policy of a political party or candidate if the comments are outside the scope of the public servant's duties and the matter is directly related to his/her duties
- Solicit funds – this is only applicable if the public servant supervises others or deals directly with the public
- Activities that could interfere with the Public servant's duties or conflict with the interests of the Crown or public body

Specially Restricted¹ public servants can *only*:

- Vote
- Attend an all-candidates meeting
- Be a member of a political party²
- Donate money to a party or candidate²
- Be a municipal candidate³
- Campaign for a municipal candidate³

The Integrity Commissioner may authorize part-time specially restricted public servants to participate in other activities.



¹ See next page for list of Specially Restricted public servants.

² Except deputy ministers and the Secretary of the Cabinet.

³ Only if authorized by Ethics Executive.



Who are Specially Restricted Public Servants?

In Ministries:

- Directors
- Deputy directors of a legal services branch
- Crown attorneys
- Commissioned OPP officers and commanders
- Assistant deputy ministers
- Associate deputy ministers
- Deputy ministers
- Secretary of the Cabinet

In Public Bodies:

Only appointees to the tribunals in Ontario Regulation 377/07 are specially restricted public servants.

These tribunals include:

- Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs Tribunal
- Board of Negotiation
- Building Materials Evaluation Commission
- Crown Employees Grievance Settlement Board
- Fairness Commissioner
- Health Professions Appeal & Review Board
- Medical Eligibility Committee
- Ontario Energy Board
- Ontario Highway Transport Board
- Ontario Labour Relations Board
- Ontario Securities Commission
- Physician Payment Review Board
- Tribunals Ontario
- Alcohol & Gaming Commission of Ontario
- Building Code Commission
- Consent & Capacity Board
- Education Relations Commission
- Financial Services Tribunal
- Health Services Appeal & Review Board
- Normal Farm Practices Protection Board
- Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission
- Ontario Human Rights Commission
- Ontario Review Board
- Pay Equity Office & Pay Equity Hearings Tribunal
- Public Service Grievance Board
- Workplace Safety & Insurance Appeals Tribunal

When in doubt - contact your Ethics Executive

For further information

Office of the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario

ethics@oico.on.ca

416-314-8983 or 1-866-956-1191

www.oico.on.ca

This summary is provided for information only.

For the authoritative text, refer to the *Public Service of Ontario Act, 2006* and its regulations.

