

## POLICY 1.4 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Trustees of the Board of Education of School District No.50 (Haida Gwaii) (the “Board”) must act in the best interest of the Board, and without regard to their personal interests.

Trustees have an obligation to avoid conflicts of interest, including pecuniary/financial and non-financial conflicts of interest, and must remain unbiased and objective about matters that come before the Board. Trustees must make themselves aware of and abide by the provisions of the *School Act* that pertain to conflicts of interest.

A pecuniary interest is an interest in a matter that could monetarily affect the Trustee and includes an indirect pecuniary interest referred to in the *School Act*. The provisions of the *School Act* regarding disclosure do not apply to a pecuniary interest in any matter that a Trustee may have by reason of the Trustee having an interest in the matter which is an interest in common with electors generally.

Conflicts of interest can arise in a variety of ways, including: a direct or indirect financial conflict of interest, a conflict of interest arising by virtue of predetermination of a matter coming before the Board and conflicts of interest arising because of a personal interest resulting from circumstances or relationships of individual Trustees.

In accordance with common law, a Trustee is not qualified to vote on a matter in which they have a personal interest that could lead a reasonably well-informed outsider to think that their judgment could be influenced by that interest leading to a reasonable apprehension of bias.

A number of factors need to be considered when determining issues of conflict of interest. Individual Trustees or the Board may wish to seek their own legal advice on such matters.

### **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

A Trustee who has a conflict of interest in a matter before the Board must declare that interest and the general nature of the conflict.

The Trustee shall not participate in the discussion or voting or attempt to influence voting on a matter in which they are in conflict. If the meeting is not open to the public the Trustee shall immediately leave the meeting, or the part of the meeting during which the matter is under consideration.