



	REPORT NO.: 2018-04
MEETING DATE: JANUARY 18, 2018	DATE PREPARED: JANUARY 8, 2018
SUBJECT: POLITICAL NEUTRALITY POLICY	

RECOMMENDATION

THAT with respect to Report No. 2018-04 (CAO's Office), we, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board approve the Political Neutrality Policy as presented.

REPORT SUMMARY

To present The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with information related to the implementation of a Political Neutrality Policy.

BACKGROUND

During the November 23, 2017 Board Meeting the Board received Report No. 2017-88 (CAO's Office) Political Neutrality Policy as a First Report for discussion and further consideration. Administration requested the guidance and political acuity of the Board in shaping this policy and improving the quality of the first draft. The Board suggested changes by consensus to the First Report that have been incorporated into the attached draft Political Neutrality Policy.

COMMENTS

The Board suggested changes to the First Report include reference to the Canada and Ontario Elections Acts; the elimination of a provision that would require municipal, provincial, or federal representatives to submit requests for TBDSSAB participation in public events a minimum of 30 days prior to the desired target date; and a provision that would allow for the Board Chair to use their discretion.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS



There are no financial implications related to this report.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the Political Neutrality Policy be adopted by the Board to ensure clear and consistent guidelines with regard to partisan political activities in TBDSSAB direct owned housing, office buildings, and any other owned or leased buildings as they pertain to requests to the Board for deputations, public events, or other formal gatherings by elected municipal, provincial, and/or federal officials or their representatives; electoral candidates; and/or other political organizations.

REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED

Attachment #1: Draft Political Neutrality Policy

PREPARED BY:	Saku Pinta, Senior Social Policy Analyst The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board
APPROVED / SIGNATURE:	 William (Bill) Bradica, Chief Administrative Officer The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board
SUBMITTED / SIGNATURE:	 William (Bill) Bradica, Chief Administrative Officer The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board

POLICY

CATEGORY/SECTION

BOARD - GENERAL

SUBJECT

POLITICAL NEUTRALITY POLICY

AUTHORITY

Governance and Procedural By-Law Number 01-2017

Elections Act, R.S.O. 1990

Canada Elections Act, S.C. 2000

INTENT OF POLICY

To provide clear and consistent guidelines with regard to partisan political activities in District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) direct owned housing, office buildings, and any other owned or leased buildings as they pertain to requests to the Board for deputations, public events, or other formal gatherings by elected municipal, provincial, and/or federal officials or their representatives; electoral candidates; and/or other political organizations.

DEFINITIONS

Elected representative: an elected or appointed municipal, provincial, federal official, or official designate.

Electoral candidate: a registered candidate in a municipal, provincial, or federal election – as defined under the Municipal, Ontario, and Canada Elections Acts – during an election period.

Political organization: any organization that involves itself in the political process, including political parties, non-governmental organizations, or advocacy groups.

POLICY

The TBDSSAB, as a publicly-funded, non-profit corporation, maintains a position of neutrality in the arena of partisan politics as a principle of public accountability and transparency. As such, the TBDSSAB does not, as a corporate entity, officially endorse any political viewpoint, nor does it have the authority to censure or discriminate against the freedom of thought, belief, or other fundamental freedoms of the Board, Administration, tenants, clients, and/or other individuals as enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

STANDARDS OF APPLICATION

IMPLEMENTATION / BOARD APPROVAL DATE:

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<p>CATEGORY/SECTION BOARD – GENERAL</p>	<p>SUBJECT COMMITTEES</p>
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1. Requests made by electoral candidates to address the Board will be reviewed by the TBDSSAB Board of Directors and must be submitted a minimum of 30 days prior to the desired target date.
2. Requests made by elected representatives to address the Board will be reviewed by the Board Chair.
3. Requests by municipal, provincial, or federal representatives for TBDSSAB participation in public events should be addressed to the Board Chair submitted to the Board within a reasonable timeframe prior a minimum of 30 days prior to the desired target date.
- 3.4. In instances where a quick time sensitive decision has to be made on is required regarding a request by an elected representative; by municipal, provincial, or federal representatives for TBDSSAB participation in public events; and/or other instances that could engender legal or reputational risks, the Board shall permit the Board Chair to use their discretion and political acuity to determine the proper course of action.
5. Requests to utilize common areas in multi-residential TBDSSAB direct owned housing or leased buildings for constituency meetings, electoral canvassing, or other political activities may be submitted directly to a tenant or tenants' association for approval, as guided by the Common Room / Resource Centre Rules. In instances where a tenants' association does not exist, requests should be directed to the CAO's Office which will notify the appropriate personnel in a timely manner.
- 4.6. During an election period, the Canada and Ontario Elections Acts give candidates and their representatives a right of access to buildings, land, streets or other places that are open without charge to the public. At no time, outside of an election period, will door-to-door canvassing of a TBDSSAB owned or leased property be permitted.

RELATED POLICIES

N/A

RELATED PROCEDURES

Common Facility Procedure – Housing Services

FORMS

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CATEGORY/SECTION

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COMMITTEES

Common Room / Resource Centre Rules

DRAFT

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