

## Code of ethics and professional conduct of the members of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement

### GENERAL

#### Department

1. A member shall serve the public in an irreproachable and upright manner and to the best of his knowledge.
2. A member shall perform his duties on an exclusive basis. With the consent of the president of the Bureau, he may, however, carry on educational activities for which he may be remunerated as well as non-remunerated activities in non-profit organizations.
3. A member shall refrain from performing any act liable to detract from the image and credibility of the Bureau and its members.
4. A member shall notify the president of the Bureau of any situation that may taint his credibility or that of the Bureau
5. A member shall be politically neutral in the performance of his duties.
6. A member shall refrain from making undue use of his title or status.
7. A member shall respect the law, shall observe the Bureau's rules of procedure and shall follow its policy.
8. A member, when making decisions concerning the proper operation of a commission of inquiry, shall apply the principles of sound management of human, financial and physical resources.

#### Independence

9. A member shall avoid any situation involving a conflict of interest.
10. A member shall avoid placing himself in a position that could entail a situation involving a conflict of interest or cause him to be in a vulnerable position. When in doubt, he shall notify the president thereof.

11. A member shall give every year to the president of the Bureau a statement indicating the nature of his financial interests.

12. Before being formally designated by the president of the Bureau to be part of a commission of inquiry or to act as mediator, the member shall inform him of any situation that may taint his credibility.

13. A member cannot use for his advantage or for the advantage of a third party information obtained in the performance of his duties.

14. A member cannot accept a gift, a mark of hospitality or other advantage other than those customarily given and of token value.

A member cannot, directly or indirectly, grant, solicit or accept an undue favour or advantage for himself or for a third party.

15. A member shall not confuse the property of the Bureau with his own property and cannot use it for his advantage or for the advantage of a third party.

16. When making a decision, a member shall not be influenced by the prospect or offer of a job.

17. A member shall consider any attempt to interfere with his work unacceptable and intolerable.

18. A member who has ceased carrying out his duties shall not garner undue benefits because of his previous duties with the Bureau.

19. A member who has ceased to perform his duties shall not disclose confidential information obtained in the performance of his duties, or use for his advantage or that of a third party information not available to the public.

## **Reserve**

20. A member shall show reserve in the public expression of his political opinions.
21. A member shall show discretion regarding anything that comes to his knowledge in the performance of his duties and is required, at all times, to respect the confidential nature of the information so received.
22. A member shall show reserve in the public expression of his opinion concerning a controversial environment-related project .
23. A member shall refrain from making public his position with respect to any project that is being examined by the Bureau or that may be examined by it in the foreseeable future.
24. A member shall not make any comments on reports drawn up by the Bureau.
25. A member shall refrain, for the duration of his term as a member of the Bureau, from commenting in public on decisions relating to a project on which the Bureau has drawn up a report.

A member shall refrain, following the end of his term as a member of the Bureau, from commenting in public on decisions relating to a project examined by the Bureau during the period when he was a member thereof.

## **SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR INQUIRIES, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND MEDIATIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

26. A commissioner shall have no personal interest in a matter that is assigned to him.
27. A commissioner shall act and shall be seen to act with detachment and impartiality.
28. A commissioner shall avoid all situations in which his independence and impartiality could be questioned. If he unexpectedly finds himself in such a situation, he shall so inform the chair of the commission and the president of the Bureau.
29. A commissioner shall observe the rules of procedural fairness and shall at all times act with the greatest transparency.

30. A commissioner 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 the cases where a commission must hold a hearing to decide on a question of confidentiality.
31. A commissioner shall become as familiar as possible with the matter under inquiry and shall do what is required to finish the analysis within the deadlines.
32. A commissioner shall show reserve, courtesy, composure and consideration towards all participants in inquiries, public hearings and mediations on the environment.
33. A commissioner shall foster mutual respect among the persons attending or taking part in the commission's proceedings.
34. A commissioner shall encourage the full participation of the interested parties.
35. A commissioner shall foster public access to information and help the public understand projects and encourage them to express their opinions freely.
36. A commissioner shall at all times maintain the confidentiality of the commission's deliberations.
37. A commissioner shall maintain the confidentiality of the commission's report until such time as it is made public.

## **APPLICATION TO PART-TIME MEMBERS**

38. The provisions of this Code apply to supplementary part-time members of the Bureau, except for sections 2, 11 and 23; notwithstanding the foregoing, the discretion required under sections 24 and 25 applies only to reports written by the commissions on which the supplementary part-time member sat and the decisions respecting the projects studied by those commissions