

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

GENERAL

DEPORTMENT

1. A member of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement shall fulfil his role in the interest of the public, and with fairness, integrity, dignity, honour and impartiality.
2. A member shall serve the public in an irreproachable manner and to the best of his ability.
3. A member shall avoid all activities that are incompatible with the performance of his duties.
4. A member shall refrain from performing any act liable to detract from the image and credibility of the Bureau and its members.
5. A member shall notify the president of the Bureau of any situation that may taint his credibility or that of the Bureau.
6. A member shall be politically neutral in the performance of his duties.
7. A member shall refrain from making undue use of his title or status.
8. A member shall respect the law, shall observe the Bureau's rules of procedure and shall follow its policy.
9. A member, when making decisions concerning the proper operation of a commission, shall apply the principles of sound management of human, financial and physical resources.

INDEPENDENCE

10. A member shall avoid any situation involving a conflict of interest.

11. 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.
12. A member shall give every year to the president of the Bureau a statement indicating the nature of his financial interests.
13. When he is asked by the president of the Bureau to sit on a commission, the member shall inform him of any situation that may taint his credibility.
14. A member shall not, directly or indirectly, grant, solicit or accept a favour or an unwarranted benefit for himself or for another person, or use for his own benefit any property of the State or privileged information obtained as a member.
15. When making a decision, a member shall not be influenced by the prospect or offer of a job.
16. A member shall consider any attempt to interfere with his work unacceptable and intolerable.
17. A member who has ceased carrying out his duties shall not garner undue benefits because of his previous duties with the Bureau.

RESERVE

18. A member shall show reserve in the public expression of his political opinions.
19. A member shall exercise discretion with respect to knowledge that comes to his attention in the performance of his duties.
20. A member shall show reserve in the public expression of his opinion concerning a controversial environment-related project.

21. 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.
22. Subject to section 36, a member shall not make any comments on reports drawn up by the Bureau.
23. 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

24. A commissioner shall have no personal interest in a matter that is assigned to him.
25. A commissioner shall act and shall be seen to act with detachment and impartiality.
26. 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.
27. A commissioner shall observe the rules of procedural fairness and shall at all times act with the greatest transparency.
28. 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.
29. 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.

30. A commissioner shall show reserve, courtesy, composure and consideration towards all participants in inquiries, public hearings and mediations on the environment.
31. A commissioner shall foster mutual respect among the persons attending or taking part in the commission's proceedings.
32. A commissioner shall encourage the full participation of the interested parties.
33. A commissioner shall foster public access to information and help the public understand projects and encourage them to express their opinions freely.
34. A commissioner shall at all times maintain the confidentiality of the commission's deliberations.
35. A commissioner shall maintain the confidentiality of the commission's report until such time as it is made public.
36. The chair of a commission, or a commissioner he appoints, may present and explain the commission's report.

APPLICATION TO PART-TIME MEMBERS

37. The provisions of this Code apply to supplementary part-time members of the Bureau, except for sections 12 and 21; notwithstanding the foregoing, the discretion required under sections 22 and 23 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.