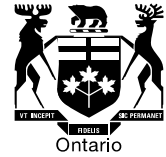


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Chief Operating Officer

Chef de l'exploitation

August 28, 2008

To our stakeholders:

Re: New Conflict of Interest Rules

As you may know, the *Public Service of Ontario Act, 2006* (the "PSOA") came into force on August 20, 2007.

The PSOA sets out the ethical framework for all public servants, including those in public bodies. The Board is designated as a public body and all Board members and employees are included in the term "public servant".

The PSOA sets out rules regarding the conduct of public servants, including rules regarding conflicts of interest and related issues. The PSOA gives public bodies such as the Board the choice of:

- (a) adopting their own conflict of interest rules, subject to approval by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner; or
- (b) following the rules regarding conflicts of interest set out in the regulation made under the PSOA.

The Board has decided to follow option (b). Therefore, as of August 20, 2008, all Board members and employees must follow the conflict of interest rules set out in Ontario Regulation 381/07—*Conflict of Interest Rules for Public Servants (Ministry) and Former Public Servants (Ministry)* (the "Regulation").

Section 4 of the Regulation deals with the acceptance of gifts by public servants and states that:

- 4(1) A public servant shall not accept a gift from any of the following persons or entities if a reasonable person might conclude that the gift could influence the public servant when performing his or her duties to the Crown:
 - 1. A person, group or entity that has dealings with the Crown.

2. A person, group or entity to whom the public servant provides services in the course of his or her duties to the Crown.
 3. A person, group or entity that seeks to do business with the Crown.
- (2) Subsection (1) shall not operate to prevent a public servant from accepting a gift of nominal value given as an expression of courtesy or hospitality if doing so is reasonable in the circumstances.
- (3) A public servant who receives a gift in the circumstances described in subsection (1) shall notify his or her ethics executive.

A gift is defined in the regulation as including a benefit of any kind.

The Board has always required its Board members and employees to maintain a high standard of honesty, integrity and impartiality. The Regulation requires that all Board members and employees continue to maintain that high standard.

Other sections in the Regulation set out rules regarding the relationship between public servants and other parties (which includes those the Board regulates). You can find the complete text of the Regulation on e-Laws at the following link:

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_070381_e.htm#BK6.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanna Rosset, Board Counsel at 416-440-7669 or joanna.rosset@oeb.gov.on.ca.

Yours truly,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Aleck Dadson
Chief Operating Officer