



Ontario Horticultural

Association District 2

Code of Conduct

Oath of Office and Confidentiality Agreement

Definitions:

In this document the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) District 2 is referred to as District 2

a. Harassment:

Harassment consists of offensive, abusive, belittling, or threatening behaviour directed at a person or people, because of a particular characteristic of that person or people, including the person or peoples' level of empowerment relative to the harasser. The behaviour must be unwelcome and the sort of behaviour a reasonable person would recognize as unwelcome and likely to cause the person to feel offended, humiliated, or intimidated.

b. Abuse:

Abuse can be defined as, but not limited to any act of threat involving molestation, harassment, corporal punishment or any form of physical, sexual or mental abuse; the misuse of power or authority; treatment of an individual or persons in a harmful, injurious, and or offensive manner; speaking insultingly, harshly and /or unjustly to or about another person(s); or committing an act of sexual assault.

I, _____, a Board Member of District 2, declare that, in carrying out my duties as a Board Member I will:

1. Exercise the powers of my office and fulfill my responsibilities in good faith, to the best of my abilities and in the best interests of District 2
2. Carry out these responsibilities exercising all reasonable care.
3. Respect and support the Constitution and By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, Code of Conduct of District 2 and the decisions of the Board and the membership of District 2



4. Review all related meeting information prepared in advance, attend, and participate in discussions of the Board and various standing committees, at all times keeping in mind the best interests of District 2.
5. Conduct myself in a spirit of collegiality and respect for the collective decisions of the Board and set aside my personal interests to the best interests of District 2
6. Immediately declare any personal conflict of interest that may come to my attention.
7. Respect the confidentiality of discussions at all meetings of District 2. Meetings including Board Meetings, Committee Meetings, Teleconferences etc.
8. Immediately report any potential breach of this Code of Conduct to the District 2 Director in writing. I understand that an investigation of actual or perceived violations of the Code of Conduct may be conducted and may require me to step aside until such time as a review has been completed. If upon a full review and decision by the Code of Conduct Committee and following any subsequent appeal to the Officers, if any, I am found in breach of the Code of Conduct, I must resign my position effective immediately.
9. Cooperate fully and honestly if I am interviewed or asked to provide information regarding an actual or perceived breach. I may not interfere with individuals who may be witnesses to a matter under investigation, nor conceal or destroy any information pertinent to an investigation.
10. Cooperate with government authorities in their proper performance of inquiries or investigations including requests for information, notice of an investigation, or the service of a subpoena. Any inquiry from a government official or entity should be referred to District 2 Director, unless you have been specifically authorized to respond to such inquiries.

Code of Conduct

Board members and staff of District 2 will at all times conduct themselves in a manner that:

1. Supports the objectives of District 2.
2. Serves the overall best interests of District 2.
3. Brings credibility and good will to District 2
4. Respects the principles of due process and fair play.



5. Demonstrates respect for individuals in all manifestations of their cultural and linguistic diversity and life circumstances.
6. Respects and gives fair consideration to diverse and opposing viewpoints.
7. Demonstrates due diligence and dedication in preparation for and attendance at meetings, special events and in all other activities on behalf of District 2.
8. Demonstrates good faith, prudent judgment, honesty, transparency, and openness in their activities on behalf of District 2.
9. Ensures that the financial affairs of District 2 are conducted in a responsible and transparent manner with due regard for all fiduciary responsibilities and public trustees.
10. Avoids actual and perceived conflicts of interest.
11. Conforms with the District 2 Constitution and By-Laws and the District 2 Policies and Procedures approved by the Board.
12. Publicly demonstrates acceptance, respect and support for decisions legitimately taken in transaction of District 2 business.
13. Adheres to the Agricultural and the Horticultural Organizations Act R.S.O. 1990 c. A.9.
14. Encourages a positive environment in which individual contributions are solicited and valued.
15. Employs established communication channels when questions or concerns arise.
16. Contributes from personal, professional and life experiences to enhance the decision-making process of the Board.
17. Refrains from trying to influence other Board Members outside of Board Meetings that might have the effect of creating factions and limit free and open discussion.
18. Acts in a manner which cannot be perceived or is not actual harassment or abuse.

Behaviour constituting harassment can take many different forms and may be explicit or implicit, physical, verbal, or non- verbal.

Examples include, but are not limited to:



- a jokes or comments directed at a person's body, looks, age, race, religion, sexual orientation, or disability;
- b abusive behaviour aimed at humiliating or intimidating someone in a less powerful position.
- c unwelcome remarks including teasing, name-calling, or insults;
- d innuendo or taunting;
- e homophobic comments and/or behaviours;
- f uninvited touching, kissing, embracing or messaging;
- g unwelcome staring, leering or ogling;
- h unwelcome smutty jokes and comments;
- i unwelcome persistent or intrusive questions about a person's private life;
- j repeated invitations to go out, especially after prior refusal;
- k unwelcome sexual propositions;
- l the use of promise or threat to coerce someone into sexual activity;
- m sexual insults, taunts, or name-calling;

Conflict of Interest Guidelines

A Conflict of Interest refers to a situation in which personal, occupational, or financial considerations may affect or appear to affect a Board Member's objectivity, judgment or ability to act in the best interests of District 2. A Conflict of Interest may be actual, potential, or perceived in nature.

Examples may include but are not limited to:

- a. Personal interests which conflict with or are otherwise adverse to the interests of the District
- b. Accept payment or benefit financially through District 2 involvement, other than reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses pursuant to the District 2. Policy and Procedures and/or generally acceptable financial practices and/or through the normal business practices of the Board.

Complaint Process

1. The Board shall, at the Board Meeting held after the AGM form a Code of Conduct Committee comprised of a minimum of three members. . The general membership of District 2 shall be advised of the committee Chair.
2. Any member of District 2, who is In Good Standing, may file a complaint regarding an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct by any Board Member or Volunteer of District 2
3. The complainant shall deliver a written complaint by registered mail to the District 2 Director. Should the District Director be the subject of the complaint, the complainant shall deliver a written copy of the complaint by registered mail to the North and East OHA Representatives.



4. The person receiving the complaint shall deliver a copy of the complaint, by registered mail, to the Chair of the District 2 Code of Conduct Committee.
5. The Chair of the District 2 Code of Conduct Committee shall advise two members of the Code of Conduct Committee and cause an investigation to be made regarding the complaint. A third member may be advised and act as a silent member.
6. The Chair of the District 2 Code of Conduct Committee shall advise the person who is the subject of the complaint, in writing by registered mail, that an investigation has commenced. The investigation shall be completed as expeditiously as is practical considering all the circumstances.
7. The Chair of the District 2 Code of Conduct Committee shall advise the person who is the subject of the complaint and the Board of its findings and its decision(s). The decision(s) of the District 2 Code of Conduct Committee shall be in writing, sent by registered mail and is final, subject to any appeal process.
8. The District 2 Code of Conduct Committee, based on the nature of the complaint, may require the Board Member to step aside until such time as a review has been completed. Complaints containing allegations of financial improprieties, harassment, sexual harassment, or abuse will require the Board Member to step aside until such time as a review has been completed.
9. Any person found by the District 2 Code of Conduct Committee to be in violation of the District 2 Code of Conduct and subject to the subsequent ramifications, may, within 15 days of receiving notification in writing by registered mail of the decision of the District 2 Code of Conduct Committee appeal the decision of the District 2. Code of Conduct Committee to the Board
10. The decision of the Board regarding the appeal shall be final and there is no further appeal process available within the structure of District 2.

Once read, the lower right corner of each page should be initialed by the Board member to indicate that each page has been read.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

(Signature)