

Rural Municipality of Heart's Hill No. 352

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1.1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

DEFINITION:

A conflict of interest occurs when a person in public life is in a position where a private interest, financial (pecuniary) or otherwise, may clash with his or her role as a member of a Municipal Council. Due to the opposing interests, it may be difficult for fellow Council members or the public to believe the Council member could make an impartial judgement on the issue before Council.

POLICY:

It is the duty of the individual Council member to determine whether a conflict of interest exists with respect to the issue before Council.

If a Council member feels a conflict of interest exists, the Council member shall not take part in any discussion **before, during or after** with respect to the issue at hand.

The Council member shall:

- declare the interest before any discussion of the issue takes place, AND
- leave the Chambers while the matter is being discussed and, if applicable, voted upon.

The Administrator shall record in the minutes the disclosure made by the Council member and the time the member left and returned to Chambers.

Council shall cease all discussions of the issue when the Council member returns to Chambers.

RATIONALE:

Ratepayers expect and deserve integrity in the decisions and operation of their Municipal Governments and Municipal officials. Identifying, addressing and managing conflicts of interest is key to good governance and in maintaining public trust and confidence in their Municipal Government. Council members must make decisions in the best interest of the Municipality.

AUTHORITY:

Bylaw 5/16: Municipal Council Code of Ethics
The Municipalities Act: 141 - 146