



October 2, 2026

Election Season: Maintaining Professional Impartiality

This message is intended to complement any messaging that might be issued by your school district senior staff.

With municipal elections (including for school trustees) taking place on October 17 and the provincial election on October 24, Principals and Vice-Principals are reminded to consider how their words, actions, and public presence reflect their leadership responsibilities.

Principals and Vice-Principals hold positions of trust. Their fiduciary responsibilities call for loyalty, good faith, confidentiality, and sound judgment. Maintaining professional impartiality helps protect that trust and their ability to serve students, families, and districts effectively.

Trustee elections are particularly sensitive because those elected will form the Board of Education that governs each school district. Publicly supporting or opposing candidates, especially within one's own district, can complicate working relationships, create perceptions of favouritism, and potentially have implications for the employment relationship. A prudent approach is to avoid public endorsements or opposition to trustee candidates.

The same awareness should extend to all elections, given the public sector leadership role of Principals and Vice-Principals. Social media posts, sharing campaign materials, and making public comments can connect personal political views to one's professional position, even when made through a personal account.

Principals and Vice-Principals absolutely retain their rights to vote, hold political views, and participate in democratic life. Personal participation should be carefully separated from professional duties. Members

should ensure they understand and follow district policies and procedures relating to elections, political activity, and their responsibilities as Principals and Vice-Principals. School communications, resources, and positions of authority should not be used to advance personal political preferences.

Before engaging publicly, consider: *Could this message be construed as putting forth a personal political viewpoint, and thus potentially affecting confidence in my impartiality?*

If uncertain, members are encouraged to seek guidance from their supervisor before acting. BCPVPA Member Support Services is also always available to support members with questions about their professional responsibilities.