



# *Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools* **Board Policy**

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**Policy Title:** Political Activities and Events

**Code:**

BP 21

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## **Background**

As a not-for-profit public entity in the province of Saskatchewan, Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools serves the community at large and must be seen to operate in a fair, democratic and non-partisan manner. As such, funds or assets will not contribute to any political party or individual who holds political office or to candidates seeking election at the band, municipal, provincial or federal level.

All registered charities are required by law to have exclusively charitable purposes.

## **Definitions:**

**Partisan:** is someone who strongly supports or shows favoritism towards a particular cause, person or party.

**Partisan Political:** In the context of politics, partisan means a firm adherence to a political party, idea or cause, especially “a person who shows a biased, emotional allegiance”.

## **Scope:**

This policy applies to all employees and Board Members of Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools.

1. Christ the Teacher School Division shall:
  - 1.1. comply with all relevant legislation regarding political contributions;
  - 1.2. not use division funds to donate to political parties, representatives of political parties, candidates seeking election or election campaigns at any level of government;
  - 1.3. not use division funds to make indirect or in-kind contributions to political parties, representatives of political parties, candidates seeking election or election campaigns at any level of government; or
  - 1.4. not reimburse employees or Board Members for political contributions.

## 2. Employees and Board Members

- 2.1. Division employees and Board Members have the right to make political contributions from personal funds at their own expense.
- 2.2. Employees shall not perform tasks related to partisan political activities during working hours.

## 3. Political Partisan Activities

- 3.1. The attendance by registered charity officials, in their official capacity, at a fundraising dinner for a politician is not acceptable because it conveys the impression of partisan political activity by a registered charity. Registered charities are not permitted to carry on partisan political activities. Therefore, they cannot devote any resources to such activities.
- 3.2. Staff, students and board members are free to attend partisan political activities and events as long as no division resources are devoted to their attendance, and they do not purport to represent the division in an official capacity at such events.

## 4. Use of Division Facilities

- 4.1. Nonpartisan political activities such as voter registration activities or polling sites are permissible.
- 4.2. No organization or individual may use division facilities to raise funds through admissions, fees, contributions, donations, or sale of materials or services to benefit a political party, campaign, or candidate.
- 4.3. Political parties shall be eligible to occasionally use division facilities provided that such facilities are booked and paid for through the appropriate office responsible for booking facilities, and the same terms that are available to any group wishing to use division facilities. The division will not authorize ongoing rental of facilities to the same political party as it could lead to the conclusion that the division favours this party to the exclusion of others.
- 4.4. While renting premises to a political party at fair market value is not necessarily prohibited, the issue will depend on the facts of each circumstance. Canada Revenue cautions charities in engaging in this form of behaviour to the extent that it could be interpreted not only by the Canada Revenue Agency but also by the public-at-large as a prohibited political activity.

References: Federal Legislation (Bill C-24) and Provincial Legislation (Elections Act and Local Government Act  
Income Tax Act, R.S.C. 1985 (5th supp.) c. 1, paras. 149.1(6.1)(c) and (6.2)(c)  
Political Activities Policy Statement CPS-022  
CRA - Charities - Policy Commentary CPC-001, Attendance at a Political Fundraising Dinner  
CRA - Charities - Policy Commentary CPC-007, Political Party's Use of Charity's Premises

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