

MS Society of Canada Conflict of Interest Requirements

As a respected health charity, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada requires that people who are decision makers within the organization follow its conflict of interest policy.

Decision makers are defined as:

1. Directors - members of boards of directors at the national, divisional and chapter levels, and;
2. Officers – people who are not members of boards but who are assigned to carry out official functions for a board. They include the following positions: Executive-level staff (the CEO, the Vice-Presidents and Assistant Vice-Presidents accountable directly and indirectly to the CEO in his National/Ontario roles, and the Divisional Presidents who have a dotted-line accountability to the CEO) and Chapter Executive Directors.
3. Members of board standing committee – these are permanent committees that are created by a national, division or chapter board.

Conflict of interest occurs when a person is in a position to affect an official decision has, or is believed to have, a personal or financial interest in the outcome of the decision. For example, it would be a conflict of interest if a board director or officer or member of a board standing committee proposes to have a contract or a financial transaction with the MS Society. There would also be a conflict of interest if the contract or transaction involves the board director or officer or member of a board standing committee's spouse or close family member. Having a financial involvement with a company that proposes to have a contract or financial transaction with the MS Society would also be a conflict of interest.

The MS Society requires those in a conflict of interest to declare it in writing to the appropriate board of directors as soon as possible. In addition, they cannot participate in any way in the consideration or approval of the contract or transaction. If the conflict of interest is not disclosed, the contract or transaction may be cancelled.

Board directors, officers and members of board standing committees must sign a statement saying they have read and understood the conflict of interest policy direction.

For more information, please see the full text of the [Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

Related MS Society policy direction:

[Privacy and Confidentiality Policy](#)