



**CERTIFIED ORGANIC ASSOCIATIONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
ACCREDITATION BOARD**

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IMPARTIALITY & CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACCREDITATION POLICY

INTENT

The intention of this policy is to ensure that accreditation is impartial and to prevent conflicts of interest influencing decision-making.

SCOPE

This policy relates only to the COABC Accreditation Board, the Accreditation Board's decision-making committees, and Organic BC staff or contracted personnel involved with COR accreditation activities. Interested parties may obtain a copy upon request.

The policy is distributed to staff and contractors involved in COR accreditation activities and all members of the Accreditation Board must accept this policy prior to joining the board, and annually with the Declaration of Interest Form.

RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the Director of the COABC Accreditation Board to review this policy and propose revisions if necessary. This policy is approved by the Organic BC BOD.

DEFINITIONS

Impartiality – Presence of objectivity. Conflicts of interest do not exist or are resolved so as not to adversely influence subsequent activities.

RELATED PROCEDURE

- AB-PRO-100 Impartiality & Conflict of Interest Procedures
 - AB-POL-101 Impartiality Committee Terms of Reference
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POLICY

- 1) The accreditation services of the COABC shall be provided by the COABC Accreditation Board which operates independently and at arm's length from the parent body.
- 2) All accreditation body personnel shall be free from any undue commercial, financial or other pressures that could compromise impartiality.

- 3) The Accreditation Board has a process to safeguard impartiality which provides opportunity for effective involvement of interested people with no single interest group predominating. This is achieved with a committee made up of a balance of interests.
- 4) The AB shall identify risks to impartiality regarding COR accreditation activities to be brought to the Impartiality Committee. In addition, any interested party may identify a risk to impartiality to the Impartiality Committee and it will be reviewed at the next scheduled meeting.
- 5) The committee for impartiality process shall identify, analyze, evaluate, monitor, treat and document on an ongoing basis, all risks to impartiality within the COR accreditation activities including conflicts arising from the relationships of support personnel including staff and contractors, Accreditation Board members or the Accreditation Board itself.
- 6) All risks identified and how they are eliminated or minimized shall be documented using the L100 Risk Assessment Register. Any residual risk will be reviewed by the AB Director to determine if it is an acceptable risk. If the risk is not acceptable accreditation shall not be provided.