

POLITICAL ACTIVITY (Federal Elections) Frequently Asked Questions

Can I be a member of a political party?

Yes

Can I run as a candidate?

Yes, provided you apply for and obtain a leave of absence

Can I put up a campaign sign at my residence to support a candidate?

Yes

Can I make a financial contribution to a political party my candidate's campaign?

Yes.

Can I actively solicit funds for a federal political party or candidate?

Yes, unless you are a "restricted employee" (see below).

Can I go door to door campaigning with a candidate?

Yes, unless you are a "restricted employee" (see below). However, a public servant should not use his or her position to affect the political activity of another person.

Can I wear a candidate's campaign button or display campaign information at work?

No. You cannot engage in any political activity during working hours or display any political literature or material in government offices or premises.

Can I attend political meetings?

Yes. However, you cannot publicly criticize any policy of the GN if you acquired the information through your position in the GN. If you are a "restricted employee" (see below), you are not permitted to be a voting delegate nor can you express any opinions at any political meeting.

Can I serve as an official agent for a federal candidate?

No.

Restricted employees:

- Deputy Ministers and Assistant Deputy Ministers
- Chief Executive Officers and Presidents of Corporations or agencies of the GN
- Heads of secretariats of the Executive Council
- Directors, Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors
- Division Directors
- Staff of the Department of Human Resources, other than secretarial or clerical staff
- Staff of Cabinet, other than secretarial staff, clerical staff and executive assistants of current ministers
- Superintendents of Education

These Frequently Asked Questions are intended as a guide only and are not intended to alter the effect of existing legislation. If you have any questions about allowable activities for public servants during a federal election, please contact: Policy and Planning Division, Department of Human Resources, 975-6213 or refer to the Human Resource Manual Directive 204.