

CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

Consultants may be in a conflict of interest situation if it can be reasonably concluded that their position in a business or their personal interests could improperly influence their judgment in the exercise of their duties. Typical situations where a conflict of interest may arise are those where a consultant provides consulting services and advice to the client and who:

1. Works for an organization that may derive financial advantages or benefits from the sale of farm inputs, products, goods or services;
2. Has an existing or potential financial interest in the client's affairs;
3. Has a family relationship with the client (for example: father, daughter, brother or sister-in-law);
4. Is a direct competitor;
5. Has any past, existing or potential interest regarding the utilization of the results of the analysis of the business or intellectual property; or
6. Is currently an employee of the Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture or Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Some Illustrative Examples:

In completion of the work described, the consultant should not have other professional interests that might result in a real or apparent conflict of interest. For example, as part of the consultant's professional work or employment in another organization, such as a supplier of feed products or a financial institution, he or she provides consulting services for a Canada - Prince Edward Island Business Development client which would increase sales of the employer's products or loans.

There should be an arms-length relationship between the consultant and the client. For example, it would be inappropriate for the financial consultant to have a financial interest (as a shareholder) or a position of authority or influence (as a director or officer, or having a family relationship) in the business of the applicant.

The consultant should not be in direct competition with the producer. For example, a competitor may take advantage of any confidential information or insider information provided by the applicant for the special advantage of his or her own competitive business.

The consultant should not be a member or employee of an organization that approves the application or provides funding for the program.

A Conflict of Interest Declaration must be signed by both the client and the consultant and submitted with the application. The Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture reserves the right to verify any information about the relationship of the consultant and the applicant and has the right to reject an application based on any conflict of interest.

If a conflict of interest situation arises with the consultant while the consultant is providing services to the client, the client should advise the Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture.

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