

Policy Title: Partisan Political Activity Policy	Category: Policy
Applies To: Employees	Approved: November 27, 2015 Revised: October 29, 2025
Monitoring Frequency: 3 years	

GENERAL STATEMENT:

As per the Canadian Revenue Agency’s (CRA’s) guidelines, the Western Development Museum (WDM), its Board of Directors, and its employees are prohibited from devoting any of the Museum’s resources to partisan political activities. A partisan political activity is one that involves direct or indirect support of, or opposition to, any political party or candidate for public office at any time, whether during an election period or not.

The prohibition on partisan political activity is a long-standing requirement under the *Income Tax Act*. Charities are responsible for their resources and must devote these resources to exclusively charitable purposes. Since they are well placed to study, assess, and comment on government policies that relate to their charitable programs, charities can engage in a limited amount of non-partisan political activities.

However, charities that devote any resources to partisan political activities risk losing their charitable status. A charity’s resources include funds, property, and personnel (volunteers, employees, and directors).

GUIDELINES:

Partisan political activity may include, but is not limited to:

- providing financial or material contributions to a political party or candidate.
- making public statements (oral or written) that endorse or denounce a candidate or political party.
- criticizing or praising the performance of a candidate or political party.
- organizing an all-candidates meeting or public forum in a way that could be seen to favour a political party or candidate.
- inviting candidates to speak at different dates or different events in a way that favours a candidate or political party.
- posting signs in support of, or opposition to, a candidate or political party.
- distributing literature or voter guides that promote or oppose a candidate or political party explicitly or by implication.
- explicitly connecting the Museum’s views on an issue to any political party or candidate
- Post or share any online content that contains partisan political statements or contains links to a third party that supports or opposes a candidate or political party.

The restrictions on partisan political activities do not prevent volunteers, employees, or directors of charities from:

- helping in a political campaign, as long as they do this in their personal capacity and do not suggest they represent the WDM.
- making partisan political comments in public (including on social media), as long as they make it clear they are speaking in their personal capacity and not as a representative of the WDM.

When the WDM invites comments on its website or on social media, it should monitor them for partisan political statements and remove, edit, or moderate such statements within a reasonable time.

For more information on political activities, refer to the most current information available from the Canada Revenue Agency.