

PRINCIPLES FOR COLLABORATION



Principles for collaboration help public organizations such as the Canadian Judicial Council deal with increasingly complex and at times contentious issues. Although not intended to be a strict set of rules, the principles provide guidance on how Council members can best work together to successfully deliver on the Council’s mandate and core purpose. The principles facilitate open, respectful and productive dialogue, foster responsible decision-making, and promote trustful relationships and teamwork. They enable tough conversations to take place and help ensure all voices and perspectives are heard and considered.

Judges moving justice forward

Our Commitment to Principles for Collaboration

As members of the Canadian Judicial Council, we commit to approaching our activities based on the following principles for collaboration.

FOSTER HEALTHY DIALOGUE

- n We strive to create the conditions that foster frank and open dialogue and develop trusting relationships.
- n We respectfully and constructively challenge the idea, not the person.
- n We treat everyone involved in a dialogue as an equal.
- n We believe all points of view deserve to be heard.
- n We listen in order to understand.

PROMOTE RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION AMONG MEMBERS

- n We communicate with honesty, openness and transparency.
- n We treat each other fairly and objectively.
- n We engage in professional dialogue that contributes to effective policies, decisions, and desired outcomes.

DEVELOP A SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

- n We understand and respect the role of Council and the delegated roles of the Executive Committee and other Committees.
- n We have discussions that explore the breadth and depth of the issues required for collective decision-making.
- n We ensure that our decisions are responsive to feedback and that all viewpoints have been considered.
- n We respect the confidentiality of the deliberative process.

FULFILL OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE COUNCIL

- n We keep ourselves informed of Council business, including the work of the Executive Committee and other Committees.
- n We come prepared for Committee and Council meetings.
- n We put the collective interests of the Council ahead of our personal interests and preferences.
- n We approach Council discussions openly and constructively and recognize that genuinely held differences of opinion bring greater clarity and lead to better decisions.
- n We act as ambassadors for the Council, its core purpose, and its vision.
- n We commit wholly to Council decisions, even those with which we disagree.

DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENCE

- n We recognize that our legitimacy and relevance as a Council is derived from the quality and effectiveness of our work, the support of our colleagues, and ultimately the support of the wider public.
- n We behave in ways that enhance, and do not undermine, the Council’s decisions and reputation.
- n We speak with one united voice.

THE CANADIAN JUDICIAL COUNCIL’S MANDATE:
to improve the quality and promote the efficiency and uniformity of judicial service in superior courts.