



CLARINGTON EAST FOOD BANK GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION POLICY



#1.14 Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Policy

# 1.14 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy	
Policy Section: Governance & Administration	Policy Section: #1
Policy Name: Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Policy	Policy: #1.14
Approved By: Board of Directors	Original Date: Aug. 01, 2023
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Applies to: Neighbours, Staff, Directors, and Volunteers	# of Pages: 4
Standard of Excellence: #1.14	

1. **DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions have been sourced directly from the [Ontario Human Rights Code](#):

1. **Cultural competence** is the ability of an individual to understand and respect values, attitudes, beliefs, and mores that differ across cultures, and to consider and respond appropriately to these differences in planning, implementing, and evaluating services.
2. **Culturally Competent Organization**: an organization that displays cultural competence, in both its systems and individual behaviour.
3. **Diversity**: the presence of a wide range of human qualities and attributes within an individual, group, or organization. Diversity includes such factors as age, sex, race, ethnicity, physical and intellectual ability, religion, sexual orientation, educational background, and expertise.
4. **Discrimination**: treating someone unfairly by either imposing a burden on them, or denying them a privilege, benefit or opportunity enjoyed by others, because of their race, citizenship, family status, disability, sex, or other personal characteristics (note: this is not a legal definition).
5. **Duty to accommodate**: Under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, people identified by *Code* grounds are entitled to the same opportunities and benefits as everybody else. In some cases, they may need special arrangements or “accommodations” to take part equally in the social areas the *Code* covers, such as employment, housing, and education.



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6. **Equal opportunity**: aims to ensure that all people have equal access, free of barriers, equal participation and equal benefit from whatever an organization has to offer. Note that equal opportunity extends beyond employment.
7. **Equity**: fairness, impartiality, even-handedness. A distinct process of recognizing differences within groups of individuals, and using this understanding to achieve substantive equality in all aspects of a person's life.
8. **Inclusion**: appreciating and using our unique differences – strengths, talents, weaknesses, and frailties – in a way that shows respect for the individual and ultimately creates a dynamic multi-dimensional organization.

2. PURPOSE

CEFB is committed to the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of our organization. We believe we are stronger when we not only celebrate our many differences, values, and voices, but include them in practice. This means our organization will actively work to understand and remove barriers to equity and inclusion, be they systemic, physical, or otherwise. In addition, we are committed to ongoing learning and development in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion so that we can apply an “equity lens” in all areas of our business. Further, CEFB will adhere to the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians for Disabilities Act at all times.

The purpose of this policy is to outline the organization's expectations when it comes to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

3. POLICY

At CEFB we strive to ensure all people are treated equally and to be a culturally competent organization. We value diversity and will continue to actively work to build a diverse workforce which is inclusive of persons of various groups in terms of age, sex, race, ethnicity, physical and intellectual ability, religion, sexual orientation, educational background, and expertise.

We believe in equal treatment and opportunity for employees. We will ensure the right to equal treatment is upheld in the areas of rate of pay, overtime, hours of work, holidays, benefits, shift work, discipline, performance evaluations, and advancement opportunities. Discrimination will not be tolerated.

Every person who works at CEFB has a responsibility to treat others with dignity and respect, and make sure all people feel included and have access to the same opportunities. We must actively strive to create an environment where all persons are able to share their ideas, beliefs, and skills.



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4. PROCEDURE

1. Work Environment

- a. Promote a culture of respect and inclusion;
- b. Examine its workforce and the various barriers that are in place that work against equity, diversity, and inclusion and implementing strategies to overcome them such as: Revising policies and procedures annually; Examining language and available supports, creating diversity committees/groups; Asking for employee feedback through various channels;
- c. Ensure the right to equal treatment is upheld in the areas of rate of pay, overtime, hours of work, holidays, benefits, shift work, discipline, performance evaluations, and advancement opportunities. Discrimination will not be tolerated;
- d. Train staff members about the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion and our policies;
- e. Provide continuous learning opportunities to Managers and Employees;
- f. Encourage applications from persons of various backgrounds;
- g. Provide accommodation, upon request, at all stages of employment.

2. Hiring

When it comes to recruitment and hiring CEFB will put in place practices that promote equity, diversity and inclusion. Wherever possible we will:

- a. Post job positions to many platforms, including those which target underrepresented groups;
- b. Within our job postings, we will stick to the essential requirements of the position, wherever possible as we understand that items that fall in the category of “nice to have” may create barriers;
- c. Openly welcome and invite applications from persons with disabilities or those protected by the human rights code and provide accommodation during all stages of the recruitment and hiring process, upon request. We will add statements to this effect to all job postings;
- d. Train hiring managers about their own biases and how to utilize equitable hiring practices, including how to use an “equity lens” or “diversity lens” when recruiting;
- e. Utilize set interview questions based on the job description to help eliminate biases;
- f. Ensure job posting focus on essential requirements of the position.

We are committed to hiring applicants on the basis of their individual merits such as their skills and knowledge.

3. Employee Supports

At CEFB we have the following:



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- a. Gender neutral washrooms;
- b. Use first person language whenever possible. For example, do not say disabled person, say person with a disability. First person language means you put the person first;
- c. Utilize gender neutral language within interactions, meeting, and communications and consider introducing yourself using the pronouns you prefer to be addressed by;
- d. Provide gender pronoun training.

4. Privacy

CEFB understands the sensitive nature of information that may be shared during conversations about equity and diversity and will respect the privacy and confidentiality of employee information, at all times. Complaints surrounding any violence and harassment will be dealt with according to the guidelines set out in our Anti-Violence and Harassment policies.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Executive Director and/or designated other are to inform all Staff, Volunteers, and relevant individuals of its policies and practices for the management of personal information by:
 - a. Providing an open door so employees can voice any concerns or barriers they may be experiencing and acting on recommendations/concerns ;
 - b. Providing supports or accommodation to staff members as required;
 - c. Ensuring their staff feel welcome and included;
 - d. Creating opportunities to ensure the ideas, talents and opinions of all team members are heard and that proper credit is given for ideas and accomplishments;
 - e. Being flexible on policies as needed such as allowing employees to observe various religious/spiritual practices or days of observance, including altering break time or substituting statutory holidays;
 - f. Actively working to find ways to bring people together so they may share ideas;
 - g. Ensuring all signage within the work environment supports an environment that is equitable, diverse, and inclusive.
2. Employees are responsible for:
 - a. Complying with this policy
 - b. Bringing forward any ideas, suggestions, or issues to their manager or supervisor.
3. The Board of Directors is responsible for reviewing this policy every March and ensuring that it meets all legal requirements.



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6. REFERENCES AND SOURCES

1. Policy 1.12: Privacy and Confidentiality
2. Policy 4.01: Anti-Harassment and Anti-Violence Policy
3. CEFB Code of Conduct
4. Ontario Human Rights Code
5. Accessibility for Ontarians for Disabilities Act
6. CEFB Human Resource Manual
7. CEFB Board Manual
8. CEFB Volunteer Manual

7. APPENDIX

Document Name
1. F1.12.01 Confidentiality Form

8. REVISION CONTROL

Date	Revision Details	Revision #	Effective
		Revision #1	