



ONTARIO EDUCATION SERVICES CORPORATION

## Professional Development Program for School Board Trustees

Modules

# 17

## Developing a Code of Conduct for Trustees

### CASE STUDIES

#### Case Study #1

Philip LeRoux, former chair of the Duncan Board of Education, enjoys his role as a school board trustee and has a friendly relationship with the community and the press based on his long years of service. He is not too confident in the new chair who has had little board experience and does not share his philosophical views.

Tonight, there is an important vote on the agenda at the board meeting about safety in response to a drowning on a school trip. As Philip leaves the meeting, he is asked by his buddy from the local radio station for a comment about the discussion and the result of the vote.

Could this be a breach of the Code of Conduct? What should Philip do? If Philip shares information with his friend, will he possibly be breaching the board's Code of Conduct? If so, how should the board handle the breach?

#### Case Study #2

Trustees Carol Henderson and Marla Gibson disagree on just about everything. Their inability to get along and constant sniping at each other are disrupting meetings and undermining the work of the Board. The chair has been unable to deal with the situation effectively. Other trustees are fed up with their behaviour and even the media and district constituents are becoming aware that animosity is an issue at the board table.

Could this situation be a breach of the Code of Conduct? Why? How should the board proceed?

## Case Study #3

There is a scandal brewing in your community about the board. Rumours are flying that Trustee Harry Jensen, who also runs Jensen Construction Company with his brothers, is involved in a deal with a local land developer bidding on school board contracts for new school construction.

How does your board intend to deal with this situation? How does this possible conflict of interest relate to the ethical leadership and shared moral purpose of your board? How does the board's Code of Conduct potentially relate to this situation? What should the trustee do? What should the Chair do?