

OHS Futures

External peer reviewers

Conflict of interest guidelines

General guidelines

Applicants for OHS Futures research grants are asked to recommend two external peer reviewers to review their applications. Reviewers may be in a conflict of interest if:

- their other commitments, relationships or financial interests could or could be seen to exercise an improper influence over the objective, unbiased and impartial exercise of their independent and professional judgement;
- or could or could be seen to compromise, impair or be incompatible with the effective performance of their duties.

Specific guidelines

Reviewers are considered to be in a conflict of interest if they:

- Have an unfair advantage or engage in conduct, directly or indirectly, that may give them an unfair advantage.
- Engage in conduct that compromises or could be seen to compromise the integrity of the review process and render that process unfair.
- Use their position to further their private interest by influencing a decision or recommendation to be made by another reviewer.
- Accept a fee, benefit, or gift in connection with the performance of their role as a reviewer from a party other than the Ministry, where a reasonable person might conclude that such a fee, benefit or gift could influence the Reviewer's performance.
- Have collaborated, published or been a co-applicant on a grant with the primary applicant or co-applicant(s) within the last three years.

- Have been a student or supervisor of the Primary Applicant or Co-Investigator within the last three years.
- Are (or their spouse is) a close relative of the primary applicant or co-applicant.
- Are of the opinion that they cannot provide an objective review of a proposal.



In addition, reviewers must not review a proposal for which they cannot provide an objective review of an application due to longstanding personal or scientific differences with the applicant, institution or any of the primary applicants or co-applicant(s).

Declaring a conflict of interest

Reviewers who identify an actual or perceived conflict of interest in relation to the OHS Futures – Research Funding Program applications must make a full and open disclosure in writing stating that they are in conflict to Alberta Labour. The preferred method to declare conflict of interest is via email sent to OHSFutures@gov.ab.ca.