

Nature Vancouver Code of Ethics

Approved by the Board of Directors on January 3, 2023

Statement of Ethical Behaviour for Officers, Directors & Delegates

Overall Responsibility

Core Principle

As Nature Vancouver officers / board members and delegates, we are responsible for adding value to Nature Vancouver and contributing to the success of this organization. We accept responsibility for our individual decisions and actions. We are also advocates for Nature Vancouver by engaging in activities that enhance its credibility and value.

Intent

- To build respect, credibility and strategic importance for Nature Vancouver and the communities in which we engage with.
- Ensure that Nature Vancouver's reputation is protected.
- To assist Nature Vancouver in achieving its objectives and goals.
- To inform and educate current and future members of Nature Vancouver and the general public about principles and practices that help Nature Vancouver.
- To positively influence the volunteer workplace and recruitment practices.
- To encourage professional decision-making and responsibility.
- To encourage social responsibility.

Guidelines

- Adhere to the highest standards of ethical and professional behavior.
- Comply with the law.
- Work consistent with the values of Nature Vancouver.
- Strive to achieve the highest levels of social responsibility.
- Advocate for the appropriate use and appreciation of members as human beings.
- Advocate openly and within the established forums for debate in order to influence positive decision-making and results.
- As members we are accountable to Nature Vancouver through its Constitution, By-laws, policies and any other authorized structure.

Professional Development

Core Principle

As professionals we strive to meet the highest standards of competence and commit to strengthen our competencies on a continuous basis.

Intent

- To expand our knowledge of our field of interest to further our support of Nature Vancouver initiatives.
- To maintain the knowledge and skills needed to be competent.

Guidelines

- Commit to continuous learning, skills development and application of new knowledge related to both human resource management and natural history relevant to Nature Vancouver.
- Contribute to the body of knowledge, the evolution of Nature Vancouver and the growth of individual's members through teaching, research and dissemination of knowledge.

Ethical Leadership

Core Principle

Nature Vancouver members are expected to exhibit individual leadership as a role model for maintaining the highest standards of ethical conduct.

Intent

- To set the standard and be an example for others.
- To earn individual respect and increase our credibility with those we serve.

Guidelines

- To be ethical; act ethically in every interaction.
- Question pending individual and group actions when necessary to ensure that decisions are ethical and are implemented in an ethical manner.
- Seek expert guidance if ever in doubt about the ethical propriety of a situation.
- Through teaching and mentoring, champion the development of others as ethical leaders in Nature Vancouver.

- We will establish and maintain respectful partnerships with colleagues, allied volunteers, community partners and decision makers to support the well-being of all.
- When representing Nature Vancouver, work on its behalf, not for oneself or a few individuals.

Fairness and Justice

Core Principle

As Nature Vancouver members, we are ethically responsible for promoting and fostering fairness and justice for all members.

Intent

To create and sustain an environment that encourages all members of Nature Vancouver to reach their fullest potential in a positive and productive manner.

Guidelines

- Respect the uniqueness and intrinsic worth of every individual.
- Treat people with dignity, respect and compassion to foster a trusting environment free of harassment, intimidation, and unlawful discrimination.
- Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to develop their skills and new competencies.
- Assure an environment of inclusiveness and a commitment to diversity in Nature Vancouver.
- Develop, administer and advocate policies and procedures that foster fair, consistent and equitable treatment for all.
- Regardless of personal interests, support decisions made by Nature Vancouver that are both ethical and legal.

Conflicts of Interest

Core Principle

As Nature Vancouver members, we must maintain a high level of trust with our stakeholders. We must protect the interests of our stakeholders as well as our member integrity and should not engage in activities that create actual, apparent, or potential conflicts of interest.

Intent

To avoid activities that are in conflict or may appear to be in conflict with any of the provisions of this Code of Ethics or with one's responsibilities and duties as a member of Nature Vancouver.

Guidelines

- Adhere to and advocate the use of published policies on conflicts of interest within Nature Vancouver.
- Refrain from using one's position for personal, material or financial gain or the appearance of such.
- Refrain from giving or seeking preferential treatment in the human resources processes.
- Prioritize one's obligations to identify conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof; when conflicts arise, disclose them to relevant stakeholders.

Use of Information

Core Principle

Nature Vancouver members consider and protect the rights of individuals, especially in the acquisition and dissemination of information while ensuring truthful communications and facilitating informed decision-making.

Intent

To build trust among all members by maximizing the open exchange of information, while eliminating anxieties about inappropriate and/or inaccurate acquisition and sharing of information

Guidelines

- Acquire and disseminate information through ethical and responsible means.
- Ensure only appropriate information is used in decisions affecting all members.
- Investigate the accuracy and source of information before allowing it to be used in related decisions.
- Safeguard restricted or confidential information.
- Take appropriate steps to ensure the accuracy and completeness of all communicated information about policies and practices.