



## OFFICIAL COLLEGE POLICY

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN RESEARCH (7210-39)

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## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN RESEARCH (7210-39)**

Division or Sector: Academic

Responsibility: Academic Dean

Approved by Academic Council September 7, 2012.

Approved by the Vanier College Board of Directors September 27, 2012.

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## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN RESEARCH (7210-39)**

### **PURPOSE:**

Trust and integrity lie at the core of research activity and real or perceived conflicts of interests among researchers, research participants or members of review committees cannot be permitted to undermine that trust. The purpose of this policy is to minimize and manage situations where such conflicts of interest in research arise.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

A conflict of interest in research arises:

- a. When a researcher's private business interests or that of his/her family or associates, comes into conflict with the responsibilities and obligations to the College and its policies and/or to the staff, students and other members of the college community.
- b. When a researcher uses college resources (materials, equipment, technical and administrative services, laboratories, staff, the college's logo or official insignia), without seeking prior agreement, for personal gain or for the benefit and advantage of others related to or associated with the researcher.
- c. When a researcher, as supervisor or teacher, structures or directs the work of students to the personal or business interest of the researcher or that of his/her associates, to the detriment of the students scholarly and academic interests.
- d. When the ability of the researcher to act independently and with impartiality in performing college duties is compromised by his/her personal or business interests.
- e. When the researcher uses confidential information to which he has access in the course of his/her duties for personal or business gain or for that of his associates or relatives.
- f. When a researcher influences or tries to influence decisions made by the College or an outside agency for personal or business gain.
- g. When a researcher joins any organization outside the College that may reasonably expect him/her to disclose confidential or proprietary information to which their connection to the College may provide access.
- h. When a researcher accepts, without written authorization of the College, a research grant or contract from any outside non-College organization from which they receive or may subsequently receive direct or indirect benefits as an executive officer or shareholder.
- i. When a researcher employs students in any commercial venture related to the student's study or research or proceeds to commercialize the student's work in such a way as to restrict the student's ability to complete their academic program or their ability to communicate their findings.

### **POLICY**

The number of situations that may give rise to conflict of interest or the perception of conflict of interest are far too numerous to be treated in detail in any formal policy. In general members of the college community are expected to:

1. Adhere to the highest ethical standards in the performance of their responsibilities.

2. Act in a manner designed to meet the closest scrutiny.
3. Promptly seek guidance and advice from college authorities when faced with any decision or action that may cause or be perceived to cause a conflict of interest.
4. Treat unresolved conflicts of interests in research as examples of research misconduct that fall under the Research Integrity Policy of the college and may give rise to sanctions discussed in that policy.

Nothing in this policy should be construed as abrogating the syndical rights of any member of the Vanier community as covered in the collective bargaining agreements between the college and its employees.

**RELATED POLICIES:**

1. Research Integrity Policy
2. Research Involving Human Participants
3. Vanier Human Rights Policy and Complaint Resolution Procedures

**REFERENCES**

Red River College of Applied Arts, Science and Technology. Policies & Procedures, Conflict of Interest in research, No 4, May 10th 2005.

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