Title: **Distribution of Union Material**
Category: **Education**
Number: **1360** **Circulating until May 5, 2017**

Purpose:

Judicial and arbitral jurisprudence has clarified that teachers have the right to engage in political discussion and the freedom to express their views to parents on such educational issues under Section 2(b) of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (the Charter). Any restrictions on expression have to be justified under Section 1 of the Charter.

The right of teachers and support staff to further the debate with parents must be valued, but it must also be balanced with society's interest in an effective and efficient school system, which maintains the confidence of students, parents and the public.

Teachers and support staff must obtain prior approval of the Superintendent when distributing union/political information on educational matters on school property to parents or through students.

Practices:

1. Prior to distribution of any material staff must obtain approval of the Superintendent of Schools when distributing union/political information on educational matters on school property to parents or through students.
2. The superintendent will review the information for its accuracy and relevance to educational matters.
3. Approval will be given or denied in writing within 4 working days of receipt of the proposed material .
4. Should a union/political communication not be approved for any reason, the superintendent or designate will raise the matter with the local union president or designate.
5. Any approved communication must be placed in a sealed envelope and clearly addressed to the parent/guardian. The document shall clearly indicate the author of the material.

Adopted: January 1996
Revised: May 2009
References: Policy 11 (Role of the Superintendent)

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