

February 11, 2026

Policy Statement on Nonpartisanship

A: NONPARTISANSHIP

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood is a mixed income, ethnically diverse neighbourhood made up of people from diverse communities and equity seeking groups¹. The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA) recognizes that it has a responsibility to represent and advocate for its entire community fairly and equitably.

In doing so, therefore, the SLNA will at all times act as a nonpartisan organization. Specifically,

- SLNA will not provide a platform for, nor take sides in political debates;
- SLNA will not support or oppose specific candidates, parties, or ideologies at any level of government – municipal, provincial or federal;
- SLNA will focus on issues independent of party politics and welcomes participation from all political backgrounds which do not infringe upon or contravene SLNA's core values, principles or policies;
- SLNA will strive to create a space for dialogue that is fair, balanced, and inclusive of multiple perspectives;
- SLNA's nonpartisanship will be characterized by objective advice, transparency in processes, merit-based decisions and respect for diversity.

Why Nonpartisanship Matters

Nonpartisanship:

- enhances credibility and trust – a reputation for fairness strengthens relationships with members, neighbours, governments and the community at large;
- improves the integrity of content – encouraging open discussion without ideological bias fosters genuine critical thinking;
- reduces polarization – a balanced approach helps prevent organizations from becoming battlegrounds for ideological conflict.
- promotes stronger civic engagement – assessing and evaluating multiple viewpoints allows for informed participation in democracy.

Nonpartisanship fosters an environment where ideas can be explored without institutional bias. It does not mean avoiding important discussions, nor does it mean treating all viewpoints as equally valid when they lack factual grounding.

Examples of Nonpartisan Behaviour (Unbiased Leadership):

- facilitating open discussions about political issues without pushing an agenda;
- championing evidence-based positions and providing source transparency;

¹ For the purposes of this policy, equity-seeking groups include Aboriginal/First Nations people, women, people with disabilities, racial minorities, socio-economically disadvantaged, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons.

- emphasizing active engagement with diverse sources of information over passive consumption.

Examples of Partisan Behaviour (Biased Leadership):

- publicly endorsing or criticizing a political candidate;
- pressuring anyone to take a stance on a social or political issue;
- disciplining or silencing voices based on their political beliefs.

In a time when many organizations face pressure to take explicit stances on political and social issues, true nonpartisan leadership is essential. Upholding intellectual openness, fairness, and unbiased engagement is not about avoiding controversy — it is about building trust, credibility, and an expectation for rigorous inquiry. A steadfast commitment to nonpartisanship does more than foster open dialogue; it also strengthens organizations during moments of uncertainty or crisis. By maintaining a fair and principled approach, organizations can navigate complex challenges without compromising their integrity or alienating key stakeholders.

B: NONPARTISANSHIP AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Notwithstanding its commitment to nonpartisanship, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association does work closely with and collaborate with elected representatives at all levels of government.

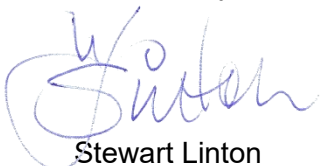
This can include:

- offering or withholding the Association's support, or objecting to a position, initiative or program taken or proposed by an elected representative, or by a municipal, provincial or federal Government then in power;
- offering a platform for an elected representative to communicate with the Association's membership and the neighbourhood at large;
- offering support for and/or publicizing a program, service or activity sponsored by an elected representative;
- participating or partnering with an elected representative to deliver programs, services and activities which are consistent with the Association's mandate and priorities;
 - this may include contributing and/or receiving funds;
- other engagements and involvements of a similar nature.

None of these involvements or activities vis à vis elected representatives are deemed by the Board to contravene the Association's nonpartisanship.

APPROVAL

This policy was approved by The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association Board of Directors on February 11, 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stewart Linton".

Stewart Linton
Director and President