



Team Name: Corporate Communications	Reference Number: ORG.1110.PL.001
Team Lead: Regional Director-Communications & FLS	Program Area: Corporate Communications/French Language Services
Approved by: Executive Director – Mid	Policy Section: Corporate Communications
Issue Date: December 3, 2014	Subject: Elections and Political Access to Southern Health-Santé Sud Sites
Review Date:	
Revision Date: November 1, 2017	

POLICY SUBJECT:

Elections and Political Access to Southern Health-Santé Sud Sites

PURPOSE:

This policy ensures effective and efficient processes are in place to manage requests for site access from political parties while maintaining Southern Health-Santé Sud’s neutrality and protecting the ongoing care and privacy of clients during a campaign period (as defined by the appropriate legislation or regulator, for example: Elections Manitoba).

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE:

Executive Limitation (EL-1) - Global Executive Restraint & Risk Management
 Executive Limitation (EL-2) - Treatment of Clients
 Executive Limitation (EL-10) - Public Relations

POLICY:

1. Southern Health-Santé Sud:
 - 1.1. recognizes that clients have the right to take part in and exercise their democratic rights.
 - 1.2. treats all candidates, parties and special interest groups fairly.
 - 1.3. ensures compliance with *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Manitoba) and *The Personal Health Information Act* (Manitoba).
2. Requests from political parties to meet with patients in hospital settings are denied unless the client stay is anticipated to be longer than the campaign period. (Rationale: Over the course of a campaign period, candidates, parties and special interest groups are able to contact the vast majority of clients at the address of their enumeration.)
 - 2.1. Should a political candidate present without prior notice, immediately contact the Southern Health-Santé Sud Media Specialist (during office hours) or the Senior Leader On-Call (after office hours).
3. Transitional care, long term care and elderly persons’ housing facilities are the primary residences for clients. Reasonable attempts are made to accommodate requests to meet with clients under the following conditions:
 - 3.1. All candidates, parties and special interest groups may submit written information to the site, who will make the information accessible to the residents or tenants. Referencing the French Language Services (FLS) - General Policy (ORG.1111.PL.001), geographic areas with higher French-speaking concentration are provided with print material in both official languages.

- 3.2. Upon request, a special interest group or a candidate running for election within the electoral boundaries of the said site, as well as the party s.he represents, has a single opportunity to visit a site.
- 3.3. The site manages and distributes the invitation or notification of the visit.
- 3.4. The site does not provide clients' names or any other identifiable information to the candidate, party or special interest group.
- 3.5. Electoral or political visits will not interfere with the care of clients.
- 3.6. In accordance with government election and by-election legislation, no candidates, parties or special interest groups are permitted access to any site for the purpose of photography, videography or audio recordings in support of election materials, announcements or for holding media events.
- 3.7. Candidates meet with clients in a group setting, unless specifically requested by a client.
- 3.8. The site provides mobility assistance to the clients who are interested in attending as required.
4. Nomination meetings are not held in Southern Health-Santé Sud sites.
5. Southern Health-Santé Sud employees will not solicit candidates, parties or special interest groups to visit any of its sites.

DEFINITIONS:

Candidate: any person seeking elected office.

Party: any registered political party at any level, for example: municipal, provincial or federal.

Special Interest Groups: any organization or individual advocating or lobbying on behalf of a candidate, party or for a specific issue.

REFERENCES:

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The Personal Health Information Act

[ORG.1111.PL.001](#) French Language Services (FLS) - General