

Policy on Public Issues and Statements

Purpose

Calgary Outlink is a community-based, not-for-profit charity dedicated to providing support, education, outreach, and referrals for the 2SLGBTQIA+ and allied communities in Calgary, Alberta. Calgary Outlink must balance its federally mandated responsibilities, with respect to its charitable status, with its 2SLGBTQIA+ identity and mandate. To this end, Calgary Outlink maintains this policy to give guidance on how and when public statements or stances related to public issues can be undertaken.

Persons Affected

The Calgary Outlink Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers.

Policy Statement

1. Calgary Outlink does not hold or express specific positions on any issue in the community, unless it is related to Calgary Outlink's mandate.
2. Calgary Outlink must remain nonpartisan.
3. Calgary Outlink may, at the discretion of its Board of Directors, take a stance on politicized topics related to Calgary Outlink's mandate.

Responsibilities

1. It is the responsibility of the Calgary Outlink Board of Directors to:
 - a. Determine when posting or publishing public statements about any issue is necessary.
2. It is the responsibility of Staff to:
 - a. Respond directly and privately to individuals who may have concerns about issues, but will not post public statements about individuals, organizations, or private concerns.
 - i. Responses to concerns or issues that are defamatory or disrespectful in any way will be forwarded onto the Board of Directors.
3. Calgary Outlink's Membership and Service Users may state individual positions on any subject, having the right to express themselves. However, no individual Board Member, Staff Member, or Volunteer speaks for the entire organization.

Procedures

1. Official positions must be approved by the Board of Directors. Calgary Outlink does not publish statements about any issue without approval of the Board.
2. Public communications about positions on any issue will be delegated to the Staff, Executive Officers, or other Spokesperson appointed by the Board of Directors.
3. Questions about official statements on any issue and media inquiries can be referred to the Staff, Executive Officers, or other Spokesperson appointed by the Board of Directors.

Definitions

- **Executive Officers:** Secretary and/or Treasurer of the Board of Directors
- **Nonpartisan:** not aligning itself with or against any particular political party

Revision History

- February 19, 2024: reformatting & minor revisions
- April 16, 2021: revisions