



**WHY WE HAVE THIS POLICY**

In the context of NorQuest College's governance model of decision-making and accountability, the Board's policies establish clear expectations and limits for our own actions and for those to whom we delegate our authority.

Board policies help ensure that those to whom we delegate our authority are accountable to us for their actions. We rely on our policies as the foundation for all decisions and to monitor and measure the results of our decisions.

**WHAT WE WANT THIS POLICY TO ACCOMPLISH**

The Board's policies are current, relevant and congruent with our mandate to provide strategic leadership and stewardship of the College's resources on behalf of the public. We develop policies through a consistent and transparent process that respects the needs and perspectives of those who are directly affected by the policy. In the event that the Board needs to proceed in a way that is different than contemplated by any Board policy, having policies imposes upon us a responsibility to consciously address why we are proceeding in a different way.

**Board Policy No.1: Board Policies are Our Primary Means of Governance**

***Framework for Board policies***

All Board policies are subject to the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* and other legislation that applies to the activities of the Board.

***Standards for Board policies***

Board policies are:

- clear, current, concise
- consistent in approach
- congruent with the Board's mandate
- relevant to the Board's policy governance model

***Developing and monitoring Board policies***

The Board develops, approves and monitors compliance with its policies through a transparent process that includes:

- considering the needs and perspectives of Board members
- recognizing current and relevant practices and performance measures

- where possible, considering the potential consequences and risks of approving or not approving a policy
- monitoring compliance with and evaluating the effectiveness of each policy
- developing processes to support each policy
- creating policy that fits into one of the following four categories:
  - Governance Process Policies and accompanying statements define and clarify the responsibilities, authority, accountability, roles and administration of the Board of Governors
  - Board Relationship to the President Policies define the means by which the Board relates to the organization through the only employee that reports directly to the Board—the President
  - Expectations Policies articulate and describe the boundaries and authorities within which the Board empowers the President/CEO to operate
  - Ends Policies define outcomes and pertain to identifying priorities and making decisions that link to NorQuest College’s vision, mission, mandate, values and business model principles

***Departing from policy***

Any departure from a Board policy requires the approval of the Board of Governors.

**WHO APPROVED THIS POLICY**

NorQuest College’s Board of Governors has approved and is accountable for this policy.

**WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS POLICY**

The Board of Governors will ensure that Board policies meet the standards outlined in this policy.

**WHO IS DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY**

This policy applies to all Board members in the conduct of the business of the Board and their conduct as Board members.

**POLICY MANAGEMENT AND POLICY QUALITY ASSURANCE CHART**

<b>Board Policy Name</b>	Board Policies are our Primary Means of Governance
<b>Board Policy Number</b>	1
<b>Original Approval Date</b>	June 28, 2010
<b>Date Effective</b>	June 28, 2010
<b>Historical Review Dates</b>	
<b>Next Review Date</b>	This policy will be reviewed at least once every 3 years to ensure compliance with legislation, Board policies and intended purpose.
<b>File Storage Location</b>	
<b>Related Legislation</b>	
<b>Related Policies and Procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ all Board policies</li> <li>▪ Board policy definitions</li> </ul>
<b>Superseded Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Policy 1: College Governance</li> <li>▪ Policy 4: General Administration</li> <li>▪ Standard Practice 1.3: Delegation of Authority and Policymaking</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring and Frequency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ yearly confirmation that Board polices have been reviewed as per review schedule</li> </ul>
<b>Policy Custodian</b>	Policy and Planning Specialist