



# PUBLIC LANDS APPEAL BOARD

COIA-2024-007

306 Peace Hills Trust Tower  
10011 – 109 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3S8  
Telephone: 780-427-6207  
Fax: 780-427-4693  
Email: PLAB@gov.ab.ca

April 8, 2024

**Via Email**

Mr. Shane Getson  
Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review  
Committee  
Legislative Assembly of Alberta  
9820 – 107 Street, NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E7

Dear Shane Getson:


**Re: Review of the Conflicts of Interest Act – Request for Written Submissions**

Thank you for your letter of March 4, 2024 inviting participation. I have reviewed the Conflicts of Interest Act and noted that the Act is focused upon conflicts surrounding an individual. I do not have a submission based upon the current focus of the Act, as it appears to be very thorough from the perspective of the Public Lands Appeal Board.

However, I have noted that the Act does not contemplate structural conflicts of interest created by placing a board in the same department from which appeals are heard. Such structural conflicts of interest may create the incentive for the department to unduly attempt to influence the board and the Minister, as a party to an appeal. Further, the department may be reluctant to judicially review decisions where the Minister is a decision maker due to such a structural conflict. I do not believe this is the focus of the Act and so will reserve my observations. Should you wish a more fulsome response I would be pleased to comment about my perceptions of structural conflicts of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions regarding this letter. I may be reached toll-free by first dialing 310-0000 followed by 780-427-6207, by e-mail at PLAB@gov.ab.ca, or by fax at 780-427-4693.

Sincerely,

  
Gordon McClure  
Chair, Public Lands Appeal Board