



# Policy on Conflict of interest

## 1. Reasons for policy

CAAN makes every effort to ensure that its decisions and procedures are not only fair and objective, but are also seen to be this way. Therefore, we believe that the best way to maintain readers' trust in the integrity of the research we publish is through a policy of transparency. External reviewers and authors are asked to ensure that they avoid any actions that might lead to the appearance that a conflict of interest exists or could reasonably be viewed as affecting the objectivity of the reviewer or the quality of the research results. If conflicts of interest are disclosed, readers will be able to make an informed judgment about their significance or lack of significance. We believe this will be to the benefit of readers and authors alike.

## 2. Definition

For the purposes of this statement, conflict of interests are defined as those that, through their potential influence on behaviour or content or from perception of such potential influences, could undermine the objectivity, integrity or perceived value of a publication. Essentially, the question could be asked would 'any undeclared competing interests embarrass you were they to become publicly known after the work was published.'

## 3. Application to Authors

CAAN encourages authors to make reference to cases where there may be a real or perceived conflict of interest, financial or otherwise. Conflict of interest does not disqualify a paper for submission to the CJACBR, we ask authors to inform CAAN of any related interests that might be perceived as relevant. These statements will be considered when reviewing the articles.

### **Conflict of interest for authors may include one or more of the following examples:**

- Funding for the research was provided by an organization that may be perceived to benefit or experience a loss through publication of the results of the research in this paper (validating a process, financial impact)
- Recent (while working on the research project), present or future employment may be influenced through publication of the paper.
- Personal interests are served by the publication of the paper rather than academic and community interests.

#### 4. Application to reviewers

CAAN uses a blind peer-review process. Authors are provided with a list of the Editorial Review Board members and asked to identify cases where there could be a significant conflict of interest, financial or otherwise as described below that might be perceived as relevant. However, just as conflict of interest does not automatically invalidate the conclusions of a paper, nor do they automatically disqualify a reviewer from evaluating it. CAAN will consider these statements when distributing submissions to reviewers.

**Conflict of interest for reviewers may include one or more of the following examples:**

1. Are from the same immediate institution or company as the primary author;
2. Are not currently co-authoring other materials or working with the primary author in a collaboration or publication;
3. Are a professional associate\* of the primary author;
4. Are a close friend or relative of the primary author;
5. Have had long-standing professional/personal differences with the primary author;
6. Are a salaried employee or are negotiating employment with the institution of the primary author, except in multi-component organizations in which the components are sufficiently independent;
7. Have received or could receive direct financial benefit of any amount, from the organization/institution referenced in the article or primary author.

\* (professional associate is defined as any colleague, scientific mentor, supervisor or student with whom the reviewer is currently conducting research or other professional activities at the time of the review.)

#### 5. Application to publishing policy

The CJACBR is an independent publication. CAAN's strict policy is that editorial independence, decisions and content should not be compromised by commercial or financial interests, or by any specific arrangements with advertising clients or sponsors. Our policy is to disclose such arrangements where there is any risk of a perception of compromise on this issue. A list of all sponsors associated with the CJACBR is available.



# Conflict of Interest Declaration Form

In the interest of transparency and to help readers to detect potential bias, we require authors and reviewers of submissions to the CJACBR to declare any conflict of interest in relation to papers submitted for publication.

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**Reviewers:** Please print, complete and return this form.

**Authors:** Please print, complete and return this form  
Please complete the attached chart, submitting one statement from the primary author on behalf of all listed authors, regarding conflict with reviewers.

## Declaration of competing interests

MANUSCRIPT TITLE:

Please check one of the following:

- I/we declare that there are no competing interests such as those defined in the CJACBR policies or others that might be perceived to influence the results and discussion reported in this paper.
- I/we have competing interests such as those defined in the CJACBR policies or others that might be perceived to influence the results and discussion reported in this paper.
- I/we decline to respond to this request for information.

If you have checked 2, please specify the competing interests:

Any author or reviewer who is uncertain as to whether a conflict of interest exists must inform the CAAN Director of Research and Programs or the lead staff member for the Editorial Review Board of the potential conflict.

I agree to adhere to the CJACBR Conflict of Interest policies as outlined above.

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Signature

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Date

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Print Name

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