

## **FINANCE**

## **Policy 609-R (previously Policy 809-R)**

### **Selection of Legal Counsel**

In recognition of the special relationship that must be developed and maintained between the Board's legal counsel and the Board, legal services shall be reviewed on a five-year basis except where special circumstances dictate otherwise.

The Secretary-Treasurer may request formal proposals from law firms deemed capable of providing legal services to the Board. The proposals shall be considered with regard to the criteria below, which may be supplemented according to specific requirements at the time.

The Secretary-Treasurer and representatives from appropriate management staff shall interview selected representatives of law firms to determine their general suitability to provide legal advice and to represent the Board. Discussions with educational and/or commercial organizations and other forms of investigation shall be involved in the process.

#### Basic Criteria for Selection of Legal Counsel

1. Demonstrated ability to provide sound legal advice, assistance and representation in the areas of labour relations, employment law, school law and land.
2. Demonstrated expertise in labour law, employment law, land and school law.
3. Ability to provide prompt comprehensive services.
4. Availability for consultation by telephone and in person.
5. Ability to provide consistency of professionally qualified legal staff.
6. Cost of providing consulting services.
7. Such other criteria as may be relevant at the time.

Nothing in this regulation shall preclude the Board from seeking additional legal advice from other law firms in specific cases.

Final recommendations pertaining to the selection of legal counsel shall be made to the Board by the Superintendent of Schools, based upon the report of the Secretary-Treasurer and the advice of appropriate management staff.