

Journalist Context

I did a scan for all of the Vaccine Task Force members on the public registry for conflicts of interest. No one showed up, except the ex-officio members who have existing declarations as public servants.

Follow Up Questions:

1. Why are the conflict of interest declarations of the Vaccine Task Force members not publicly listed on the registry so that Canadians can see who has declared a conflict and in which circumstances they have recused themselves? Who has oversight authority over the conflict of interest declarations here – is it the ethics commissioner?
2. Also, has the ethics commissioner been consulted on the reported declarations of conflicts and were any screens recommended or set up for any members as a result?

Answer

- 1a. As a volunteer external advisory body, members of the Canadian Vaccine Task Force are not required to submit their Conflict of Interest declarations to the public registry.
- 1b. The COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force Secretariat at the National Research Council monitors the Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Agreements submitted by each Task Force member. Furthermore, the Task Force has an established process for members to declare interests and to recuse themselves where there is a Conflict of Interest. These declarations are also recorded and advice given by the Task Force to Ministers takes note of relevant interests.
2. The Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner has not been consulted on the Conflict of Interest declarations submitted by Task Force Members.