

Conflict of interest screens are preventive compliance measures, agreed upon pursuant to section 29 of the Conflict of Interest Act (Act) by a public office holder and the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner, to assist the public office holders in avoiding conflicts of interest. Screens also seek to minimize the possibility of conflicts arising between the public duties of the public office holder and their private interests or those of their relatives and friends.

The Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner and I have agreed that a conflict of interest screen is an appropriate measure to prevent any opportunity while exercising my official powers, duties and functions to further the private interests of my common-law partner, Mr. Félix Marzell, President and sole owner of Dix au carré Inc., by giving preferential treatment to his company that may have future dealings with the Government of Canada.

This screen is administered by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and my Chief of Staff to ensure that I am neither made aware of nor a participant in any discussions or decision-making processes pertaining to the private interests of my common-law partner and/or his company, unless the interest in the decision or matter is one of general application.

The Prime Minister of Canada, the Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to Cabinet, the Parliamentary Secretaries to the Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as the members of my ministerial staff have been informed in writing of this conflict of interest screen.

I have undertaken to inform the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner of any additional matters I am made aware of in the future that should form part of the subject matter of this voluntary conflict of interest screen.

In the event that any relevant matter is not caught by the screen and comes before me, I am required under section 21 of the Conflict of Interest Act to recuse myself from that issue or matter and inform the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner.