

# **CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT AND ETHICS**

**Updated October 4, 2022**



# Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

## INTRODUCTION

This Code has been approved by The Caldwell Partners International Inc.'s Board of Directors (the "Board") and is intended to assist all employees, officers, directors, agents and contractors (the "Caldwell Representatives") of The Caldwell Partners International Inc. and each of its direct and indirect subsidiaries (collectively, "Caldwell" or the "Company") to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct in corporate affairs. This Code is intended to comply with Canadian securities law requirements. Specifically, the purpose of the Code is:

- To encourage among Caldwell Representatives a culture of honesty, accountability and mutual respect;
- To provide guidance to help Caldwell Representatives recognize ethical issues and report violations of the Code; and
- To provide mechanisms to support the resolution of ethical issues.

## Administration

The Board is ultimately responsible for the implementation and administration of this Code and has designated the Compliance Officer for the day-to-day implementation and administration of this Code. From time to time, the Board may change this designation and may also designate one or more Assistant Compliance Officers to fill in at times when the Compliance Officer may be otherwise unavailable, such as during his or her vacation. The Board's current designations, together with contact information, are set out in Schedule "A" to this Code. Caldwell Representatives should direct questions concerning this code to the Compliance Officer.


While this Code is designed to provide helpful guidelines, it is not intended to address every situation. Dishonest or unethical conduct or conduct that is illegal will constitute a violation of this Code, regardless of whether such conduct is specifically referenced in this Code. Caldwell Representatives shall not engage in any activity that adversely affects the reputation or integrity of Caldwell.

It is not intended that there be any waivers granted under the Code. In the unlikely event that a waiver is considered, in order to be granted it must receive prior approval by the Board if it includes a director or an executive officer, or by the Board or the Chief Executive Officer in the case of any other Caldwell Representative. Any waiver granted by the Chief Executive Officer alone must be reported promptly to the Board. Any waiver or amendment will be disclosed promptly in accordance with applicable securities laws and Caldwell's Disclosure Policy.

If laws or other policies and codes of conduct differ from this Code, or if there is a question as to whether this Code applies to a particular situation, Caldwell Representatives should check with the Compliance Officer before acting. If there are any questions about any situation, Caldwell Representatives should ask the Compliance Officer how to handle the situation. However, every supervisor or manager is responsible for helping employees to understand and comply with the Code.

Caldwell will take such disciplinary or preventive action as it deems appropriate to address any existing





or potential violation of this Code brought to its attention. Any Caldwell Representative in a situation that he or she believes may violate or lead to a violation of this Code should follow the compliance procedures described in the section entitled “Reporting of Violations Procedure” below, and detailed in Caldwell’s Whistleblower Policy.

## **Overview**

It is the policy of Caldwell to apply high standards of courtesy, professionalism and honesty in our interactions with customers, shareholders, suppliers, co-workers and the community. This Code governs the business-related conduct of all Caldwell Representatives, including, but not limited to, the Chief Executive Officer and all other directors, officers and employees of Caldwell.

## **Commitment**

To demonstrate our determination and commitment, Caldwell asks each director, officer and employee to review the Code periodically throughout the year. Take the opportunity to discuss with management any circumstances that may have arisen that could be an actual or potential violation of these ethical standards of conduct. Directors, officers and employees are required to confirm compliance with the code annually.

## **Compliance With Laws**

A variety of laws apply to Caldwell and its operations. It is Caldwell’s policy to comply with all applicable laws, including employment, discrimination, health, safety, antitrust, securities, banking and environmental laws. No Caldwell Representative has authority to violate any law or to direct another Caldwell Representative or other person to violate any law on behalf of Caldwell. Each Caldwell Representative is expected to comply with all such laws, as well as rules and regulations adopted under such laws. Caldwell Representatives should also avoid any situations which could be perceived as improper, unethical or indicate a casual attitude towards compliance with the law.


Violations of laws may subject a Caldwell Representative to individual criminal or civil liability, as well as to discipline by Caldwell. Such individual violations may also subject Caldwell to civil or criminal liability or the loss of reputation or business.


Many of the laws applicable to Caldwell and Caldwell Representatives are complex and fact specific. If any Caldwell Representative has questions concerning a specific situation, he or she should contact the Compliance Officer before taking any action.

## **Conflicts of Interest**

Caldwell Representatives are expected to make or participate in business decisions and actions in the course of their relationship with Caldwell based on the best interest of Caldwell and not based on personal relationships or benefits. A conflict of interest, which can occur or appear to occur in a wide variety of situations, may compromise a Caldwell Representative’s ability to act ethically.

Generally speaking, a conflict of interest occurs when the personal interest of a Caldwell Representative, an immediate family member of a Caldwell Representative, or a person with whom a Caldwell Representative has a close personal relationship interferes with, or has the potential to interfere with, the interests or business of Caldwell. For example, a conflict of interest may occur where a Caldwell Representative, his or her family member or person with whom he or she has a close personal relationship receives a gift, a unique advantage or an improper personal benefit as a result of





the Caldwell Representative's position at Caldwell. A conflict of interest could make it difficult for a Caldwell Representative to perform corporate duties objectively and effectively because he or she is involved in a competing interest.

The following is a discussion of certain common areas that raise conflict of interest issues. However, a conflict of interest can occur in a variety of situations. Caldwell Representatives must be alert to recognize any situation that may raise conflict of interest issues and must disclose to the Compliance Officer any material transaction or relationship that reasonably could be expected to give rise to actual, or the perception of, conflicts of interest with Caldwell. Any Caldwell Representative who becomes aware of a conflict or potential conflict should bring it to the attention of the Compliance Officer or follow the compliance procedures described in the section entitled "Reporting of Violations Procedure" below. Transactions as defined in applicable securities regulations between related parties will not be conflicts of interest under this Code if they are reviewed and approved in accordance with the requirements of those regulations.


#### *Corporate Opportunities*

Caldwell Representatives must not appropriate for themselves the benefit of any business venture, opportunity or potential opportunity he or she learns about in the course of his or her employment or office. A Caldwell Representative must not use Caldwell's proprietary information or position for personal gain. A Caldwell Representative must not compete against Caldwell, either directly or indirectly. Caldwell Representatives owe a duty to Caldwell to advance its legitimate interests when the opportunity to do so arises.

#### *Outside Activities/Employment*

Any outside activity must not significantly encroach on the time and attention Caldwell Representatives devote to their duties for Caldwell and should not adversely affect the quality or quantity of their work. In addition, Caldwell Representatives may not imply Caldwell's sponsorship or support of any outside activity that is not official Caldwell business, and under no circumstances are Caldwell Representatives permitted to take for themselves or their family members' business opportunities that are discovered or made available by virtue of their positions at Caldwell. For purposes of the Code, "family members" include any child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, spouse (including a common law spouse), sibling, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, and adoptive relationships. Moreover, except as permitted herein or by the Board, the Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee or the Compliance Officer, no Caldwell employee may perform services for or have a financial interest in any entity that is, or to such employee's knowledge may become, a vendor, client or competitor of Caldwell. Caldwell employees are prohibited from taking part in any outside employment or directorships without the prior written approval of the Chief Executive Officer or the Compliance Officer, except for minor and unrelated employment and for directorships on charitable Boards that in each case do not interfere with the employee's duties to Caldwell. In the course of any non-company activity, Caldwell employees must ensure that they are seen as speaking in their individual capacity and not as a Caldwell employee or spokesperson.

No Caldwell employee may acquire securities of a customer, supplier or other party if ownership of the securities would be likely to affect adversely either the employee's ability to exercise independent professional judgment on behalf of Caldwell or the quality of such employee's work. Caldwell Representatives must always follow Caldwell's other policies concerning the trading of securities, including those further described in this Code.



### *Civil/Political/Religious Activities*

Caldwell Representatives are encouraged to participate in civic, charitable or political activities so long as such participation does not encroach on the time and attention they are expected to devote to their Caldwell-related duties. Such activities are to be conducted in a manner that does not create an appearance of Caldwell's involvement or endorsement.

While Caldwell respects individual religious beliefs and practices, representatives must not carry on these practices in a way that reflects upon Caldwell as an organization or that affects other employees or contingent workers.

### *Inventions, Books and Publications*

Caldwell Representatives must receive written permission from the Chief Executive Officer or the Compliance Officer before developing, outside of Caldwell, any products, software or intellectual property that may be related to Caldwell's current or potential business.

### *Loans to Executive Officer or Directors*

Caldwell will not, directly or indirectly, make loans or extend credit or provide guarantees to or for the personal benefit of executive officers or directors.


## **Bribery and Other Improper Payments**

No Caldwell Representative may, directly or indirectly, give, offer, demand, solicit or accept a bribe to or from anyone in the course of conducting business on behalf of Caldwell, including obtaining or retaining business, or for any other advantage. No Caldwell Representative may, directly or indirectly, give, offer, demand, solicit or accept any improper payment to or from anyone in the course of conducting business on behalf of Caldwell, including obtaining or retaining business, or for any other advantage. Improper payment includes, without limitation, any gift, gratuity, reward, advantage or benefit of any kind (monetary or non-monetary). For greater certainty, a third party intermediary, such as an agent or family member, cannot be used to further any bribe or improper payment or otherwise violate the spirit of this Code.

### *Dealings with Government and Public Officials*

Caldwell strictly prohibits any payment to any public official that violates the laws of any jurisdiction in which Caldwell operates. Caldwell strictly prohibits any Caldwell Representative from giving, offering, promising, demanding, soliciting or receiving, directly or indirectly, any bribe or improper payment, using corporate or personal funds, to or from public officials of any government or governmental agency for the purpose of obtaining or retaining business, or for any other reason. Any offer of or request for any bribe or improper payment must be reported to the Compliance Officer. Caldwell strictly prohibits any person from making any payment if such person knows or reasonably believes that all or a portion of the payment will be offered, given or promised, directly or indirectly, to any public official of any government or governmental agency for the purposes of assisting Caldwell in obtaining or retaining business. Public officials include, without limitation:

- Political parties or officials thereof, political candidates and elected or appointed Representatives of any government or governmental agency holding a legislative, administrative or judicial position at any level;
- A person who performs public duties or functions, including a person employed by a board,



commission, corporation or other body or authority that is established to perform a duty or function on behalf of the government, or is performing such a duty or function; and

- An official or agent of a public international organization that is formed by two or more states or governments, or by two or more such public international organizations.

For greater certainty, Caldwell may make contributions to political parties or committees or to individual politicians only in accordance with applicable law and all such payments must be reported to the Compliance Officer.

### *Gifts and Business Courtesies*


Caldwell strictly prohibits any payment to any person that violates the laws of any jurisdiction in which Caldwell operates. Except to the extent specifically permitted below, Caldwell strictly prohibits any person from giving, offering, promising, demanding, soliciting or receiving, directly or indirectly, a gift, or using corporate or personal funds, in such a way that could influence or reasonably give the appearance of influencing Caldwell's business relationships with another person. Any offer of or request for such a gift or use of funds must be reported to the Compliance Officer.

Additional restrictions apply when providing anything of value to a government official or employee, employee or agent of a state-owned or controlled enterprise, employee or agent of a public international organization, political party or official thereof or any candidate for a political office.

### *Exceptions*

Caldwell does not prohibit the giving or receiving of gifts of nominal or token value to or from non-government suppliers and customers, provided that they are for the express purpose of obtaining or retaining business or some other advantage for Caldwell and provided that they are not unlawful. In this instance, nominal value is defined as gifts with a monetary value of under \$1,000. Giving or receiving of gifts of greater value will require prior approval by the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee or by the Board of Directors. Caldwell does not prohibit expenditures of amounts for meals, entertainment and travel expenses in connection with Caldwell customer conferences and other promotional activities for non-government suppliers and customers that are ordinary and customary business expenses, if they are otherwise lawful. These expenditures should be included on expense reports and approved pursuant to Caldwell's standard procedures.

Gifts include, without limitation, material goods, as well as services, promotional premiums and discounts. Caldwell does not prohibit the giving or receiving of rewards, advantages or benefits that are permitted or required under the written laws of a government for which a public official performs duties or functions. Caldwell does not prohibit payments made that are otherwise lawful in respect of reasonable expenses incurred in good faith by or on behalf of the public official that are directly related to the promotion, demonstration or explanation of Caldwell's products or services, or the execution or performance of a contract between Caldwell and the government for which the official performs duties or functions. Caldwell prohibits facilitation payments that are otherwise lawful. Facilitation payments are payments made to expedite or secure the performance of a public official of any act of a routine nature that is part of the public officials' duties or functions, including:

- The issuance of a permit, license or other documents to qualify a person to do business;
  - The processing of official documents, such as visas and work permits;
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- The provision of services normally offered to the public, such as mail pick-up and delivery;
- Telecommunication services and power and water supply.

Any facilitation payments must be recorded as such in the accounting records of Caldwell. Further, such facilitation payments shall not exceed the fees lawfully required by the public official for the function requested. For greater certainty, an act of routine nature does not include the decision to award new business or to continue business with a particular party, including the decision on the terms of that business, or encouraging another person to make any such decision.

Caution should be exercised with respect to these exceptions. If there is any doubt as to the legitimacy of a payment under this policy or under any law, advice should be sought from the Compliance Officer.

## **Public Disclosures**

Caldwell has an obligation in compliance with applicable laws to make full, fair, accurate, timely and understandable disclosure in its financial records and statements, in reports and documents that it files with or submits to securities regulatory authorities and in its other public communications. The Company must disclose to the applicable Canadian securities regulatory authorities, current security holders and the investing public, information that is required, and any additional information that may be necessary to ensure the required disclosures are not misleading or inaccurate.

In furtherance of this obligation, each Caldwell Representative in performing his or her duties shall act in good faith, responsibly, with due care, competence and diligence, without misrepresenting material facts or allowing one's independent judgment to be subordinated, in order to ensure that to the best of his or her knowledge Caldwell's books, records, accounts and financial statements are maintained accurately and in reasonable detail, appropriately reflect Caldwell's transactions, are honestly and accurately reflected in its publicly available reports and communications and conform to the applicable legal requirements and Caldwell's system of internal controls, including Caldwell's Disclosure Policy.

## **Handling of Confidential Information**

In addition to the restrictions regarding material non-public information set forth in the Disclosure Policy, Caldwell Representatives should observe the confidentiality of information that they acquire by virtue of their relationship with Caldwell, including information concerning Caldwell and its customers, suppliers and competitors and other Caldwell Representatives, except where disclosure is approved by an executive officer of Caldwell or otherwise legally mandated. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing, confidential and proprietary information includes any and all non-public information disclosed to the directors, officers or employees of the Company or otherwise made known to the Company as a consequence of or through employment or association with the Company (including information originated by the director, officer or employee). All Caldwell Representatives are also bound by the Company's Insider Trading policy with respect to all such confidential information.

In addition, Caldwell Representatives must safe guard proprietary information, which includes information that is not generally known to the public and has commercial value in Caldwell's business. Proprietary information includes, among other things, business methods, analytical tools, software programs, source and object codes, trade secrets, ideas, techniques and inventions (whether patentable or not). It also includes information relating to marketing, pricing, clients, and terms of compensation for Caldwell Representatives. The obligation to preserve proprietary information continues even after employment ends. In addition to violating this Code and Caldwell policy, unauthorized use or distribution of proprietary information could also be illegal and result in civil or even criminal penalties. Caldwell considers all intellectual property and confidential information important assets and may bring suit against employees or former employees to defend its rights vigorously.



## **Use of Caldwell Assets**

Caldwell assets, including facilities, funds, materials, supplies, time, information, intellectual property, software, corporate opportunities and other assets owned or leased by Caldwell, or that are otherwise in Caldwell's possession, may be used only for legitimate business purposes of Caldwell. Caldwell assets are not to be misappropriated, loaned to others, donated, sold or used for personal use, except for any activities that have been approved in writing by the Chief Executive Officer or the Compliance Officer in advance, or for personal usage that is minor in amount and reasonable. Employees are personally responsible and accountable for the proper expenditure of company funds, including money spent for travel expenses or for business entertainment. Caldwell Representatives are to report any theft or suspected theft to the Compliance Officer. No Caldwell Representative should knowingly invoke a program or code that could damage Caldwell's assets. Equipment provided by the Company is to be used for business purposes by officers and employees. Each individual is responsible for the appropriate use of such equipment. Except for limited personal use of the Company's equipment, officers and employees should not expect a right to privacy of their e-mail, Internet or network use. All communication, e-mails or Internet use on Company equipment or networks may be subject to monitoring by the Company for legitimate business purposes.

Members leaving Caldwell must return all company property to Caldwell as soon as employment ends. Obligations such as (i) protecting confidential and proprietary information of the Company and (ii) honouring post-employment obligations contained in employment or other agreements with Caldwell continue even after employment.

## **Fair Dealing**

Each Caldwell Representative should deal fairly and in good faith with other Caldwell Representatives, security holders, customers, suppliers, regulators, business partners and competitors. No Caldwell Representative may take unfair advantage of anyone through manipulation, concealment, misrepresentation, inappropriate threats, fraud, abuse of confidential information or any other intentional unfair-dealing practice.

## **Delegation of Authority**


Each Caldwell Representative, and particularly each of Caldwell's executive officers, must exercise reasonable care to ensure that any permitted delegation of authority is reasonable and appropriate in scope, and includes appropriate and continuous monitoring.

## **Health and Safety**


Caldwell strives to provide each Caldwell Representative with a safe and healthy work environment. Each Caldwell Representative has responsibility for maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for all Caldwell Representatives by following safety and health rules and practices and promptly reporting accidents, injuries and unsafe equipment, practices or conditions. Violence and threatening behaviour will not be tolerated. Caldwell Representatives should report to work in condition to perform their duties, free from the influence of illegal drugs or excessive alcohol. The use of illegal drugs or excessive alcohol in the workplace will not be tolerated. Caldwell representatives are also prohibited from the use or possession of firearms, weapons or explosives on Company property unless authorized by the CEO.

## **Discrimination and Harassment**

The diversity of Caldwell Representatives is a valued asset. Caldwell is firmly committed to providing equal opportunity in all aspects of employment and will not tolerate any illegal discrimination or harassment of any kind. Examples of conduct that will not be tolerated include derogatory comments







based on racial, ethnic or religious characteristics and unwelcome sexual advances or comments. To facilitate respect and contribution among employees, the following policies are implemented:

1. To hire, pay and assign work on the basis of qualifications and performance;
2. Not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, colour, gender, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, citizenship, veteran's status, marital status or disability;
3. Prohibit harassment (including sexual, physical, verbal) by others while an employee is on the job; and
4. Respect all workers' rights to dignity and personal privacy by not disclosing employee information, including protected health information, unnecessarily.

## **Reporting of Violations Procedure**

### *General Policy Regarding Report of Violations*

Caldwell Representatives who observe, learn of, or, in good faith, suspect a violation of this Code must immediately report the violation pursuant to the procedures for submission of complaints and concerns set out in the Caldwell Whistleblower Policy.

## **Compliance**

### *Adherence to Code and Disciplinary Action*

All Caldwell Representatives have a responsibility to understand and follow this Code. In addition, all Caldwell Representatives are expected to perform their work with honesty and integrity in all areas not specifically addressed in this Policy. Caldwell will discipline any Caldwell Representative who violates this Code or related practices. The determination of the appropriate discipline will be made by the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee or by the Board of Directors. Such discipline may include, among other things, written notice to the Caldwell Representative that Caldwell has determined that there has been a violation, censure by Caldwell, demotion or re-assignment, suspension with or without pay or benefits, or termination of the Caldwell Representative's relationship with Caldwell.

Records of all violations of this Code and the disciplinary action taken will be maintained by the Compliance Officer and will be placed in the Caldwell Representative's personnel file.

Caldwell will notify and cooperate with the police or other governmental authorities regarding acts of Caldwell Representatives involving violations of law. In addition, some violations may result in Caldwell bringing suit against employees or former employees to defend its rights vigorously.

### *Communications*

Caldwell strongly encourages dialogue among Caldwell Representatives and their supervisors to make everyone aware of situations that give rise to ethical questions and to articulate acceptable ways of handling those situations. The Compliance Officer shall provide a report to the Board at least quarterly on investigations and other significant matters arising under this Code.

### *Responsibility of Senior Employees*

Officers and other managerial employees are expected to promote honest and ethical conduct, including the ethical handling of actual or apparent conflicts of interest between personal and professional





relationships.

Managerial employees may be disciplined if they condone misconduct, do not report misconduct, do not take reasonable measures to detect misconduct or do not demonstrate the appropriate leadership to insure compliance.

## **Related Caldwell Policies**

### *Whistleblower Policy*

As part of Caldwell's commitment to the highest standards of corporate governance, Caldwell has established procedures for the receipt, retention and handling of complaints and concerns received relating to, among other things, alleged or suspected illegal activity or violations of this Code or a code of conduct of a Caldwell subsidiary. Any such illegal activity or code violation must be reported promptly as set out in Caldwell's Whistleblower Policy.


This Code should be read in conjunction with Caldwell's other related policy documents, including Caldwell's Employee Handbook and Disclosure Policy. This Code supplements any contractual obligation any person may have under the terms of any agreements with Caldwell.

## **Approval and Amendment**

This Code was amended and approved by the Board of Directors of The Caldwell Partners International Inc. Caldwell is committed to reviewing and updating its policies and procedures on a continuing basis. This Code may be revised, changed or amended at any time by the Board of Directors and amendment to the Code will be disclosed promptly to Caldwell Representatives.

## **Social Media**

Social Media is a powerful marketing and communication tool and a venue for customer service. Caldwell encourages sharing of information and ideas using social media, but it must be done in a responsible manner. Specifically, using sound judgment, adhering to this Code and maintaining confidential and proprietary information. Individuals wishing to participate in Social Media on behalf of Caldwell must be authorized by their manager to do so.





# SCHEDULE “A”

The Board of Directors have made the following designations:

## **Compliance Officer**

C. Christopher Beck

President and Chief Financial Officer

The Caldwell Partners International Inc. 79 Wellington Street West, Suite 2410, Box 75

Toronto, Ontario M5K 1E7

Telephone: 617-934-1843

Email: [cbeck@caldwellpartners.com](mailto:cbeck@caldwellpartners.com)

## **Assistant Compliance Officer**

Alex Lalka

Partner

Miller Thomson Scotia Plaza

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