

INFLUENCING BC: THE LOBBYISTS REGISTRATION ACT

Mary Carlson, Deputy Registrar of Lobbyists
British Columbia

Spot the Lobbyist



What is *not* lobbying

- ❑ Communication with your MLA or MP as a constituent on a matter of private interest
- ❑ Responding to written requests for information from public office holders or submissions made in public legislative or parliamentary proceedings;
- ❑ Communication concerning the enforcement, implementation or administration of a current act, program, policy or guideline
- ❑ Sales and contracts obtained through established procurement channels
- ❑ Providing information about the goods and services your company or organization delivers
- ❑ The following persons, acting in their official capacity, are generally not considered to be lobbying: members of the provincial legislative assemblies, public office holders, members of an aboriginal government and employees of a municipal governments.

What is lobbying?

Five elements of lobbying

- To communicate
- For payment
- With a public office holder
- In an attempt to influence:
 - The development of any legislative proposal,
 - Introduction, defeat or amendment of any Bill or resolution,
 - Making or amendment of any regulation,
 - Development or amendment of any policy or program,
 - Awarding of any grant, contribution or other financial benefit,
 - Awarding, amending or termination of any contract,
 - Transferring interests from Crown for consideration all or part of a business or enterprise that provides goods or services to the provincial Crown or privatizing provincial services
 - Arranging a meeting between a public office holder and any other person.

Two types of lobbyists

Consultant Lobbyists

- ❑ Hired guns
- ❑ May work for a lobbying firm or on own
- ❑ A contract or “undertaking” to lobby on behalf of a client
- ❑ Must register **themselves** within 10 days of entering into an undertaking to lobby

In-House Lobbyists

- ❑ **Employees** of businesses, non-profits, chambers of commerce, labour and industry organizations, Who, alone or together with other employees lobby 100 hours per year
- ❑ “Senior officer” must register within thirty to days after the threshold is reached

What must be disclosed in the registration process?

Name of the person legally responsible for registering the lobbyist	Name of the Consultant lobbyists or in-house lobbyists	Description of the business activities of the employer or client	If employer or client is a corporate entity, names of parent or subsidiaries	If employer or client is a coalition, names of the other coalition members
Subject matter of the lobbying	What the lobbying is intended to achieve	Public office holder targets that have been lobbied or will be lobbied	Govt funding received by employee/client in the current fiscal year	If lobbyist was former high ranking public office holder, with details *
Start and end date of the consultant lobbyists undertaking	Declarations that the information is true	Declarations that the lobbyist is not in a conflict situation	Any updates to the registration within 30 days of the change	Any clarification asked by the Registrar within 10 days

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Questions?

