



free and open access to government is important


transparent and ethical lobbying is a legitimate activity


knowing who is engaged in lobbying is desirable

registration should not impede access to government


Lobbying at the federal level — at a glance

Regulated lobbying is

 **Communicating with federal officials**
directly (written, spoken) or indirectly (appeals to the public)

 **About a regulated matter**
legislative proposal, bill or resolution, regulation
(developing, introducing, passing, defeating, amending)
policy or program
(developing, amending)
awarding of a grant, contribution or other financial benefit
awarding of a contract
arranging a meeting between an official and any other person

} does not apply to in-house lobbyists

 **For a client** for money or anything of value

- or -

For an employer in performing work-related duties

Consultant lobbyists
registration by default – no threshold

In-house lobbyists
registration threshold – 20% of collective duties

Communications that are not regulated

- a request limited to asking for information
- asking an official how a law or regulation is enforced, interpreted or applied
- making a public submission to a parliamentary committee or in public record proceedings, such as before a board, commission or tribunal

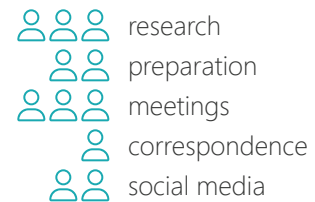
Those who lobby


Consultant lobbyists

- individuals, including external board members, who lobby on behalf of a client
- must register individually for each client in the Registry of Lobbyists

In-house lobbyists

- employees who lobby on behalf of their employer
- must be registered by the employer in a single registration once collective lobbying reaches the **in-house lobbyist registration threshold**:



Collectively  = 20% of 1 full-time employee

Excludes

- employees of a corporation or organization not meeting the registration threshold
- citizens communicating solely on their own behalf
- officials from other levels of government
- volunteers doing advocacy that is not for the benefit of their employer or client



Questions?

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Those who are lobbied

Officials

- almost all federal employees, officers and executives
- members of the Armed Forces and RCMP
- staff of parliamentarians
- plus all designated officials

Designated officials

- all parliamentarians – Senate and House of Commons – including the Prime Minister, ministers and ministers of state
- ministerial staff
- most senior executives – deputy ministers, CEOs, associate and assistant deputies, etc.
- additional positions set by regulation

Lobbying any **federal official** (public office holder) is subject to the *Lobbying Act* and may require registration and the filing of returns in the Registry.

Additionally, most arranged and spoken lobbying communications with a **designated official** (designated public office holder) must be filed in the Registry.

Five-year lobbying restriction

A **designated official** is restricted from lobbying for 5 years once they stop performing the duties of their designated position.

During the restriction period, a **former designated official** cannot:

- 1) lobby for a client for money or anything of value
- 2) lobby on behalf of an organization that employs them
- 3) lobby on behalf of a corporation that employs them, if lobbying constitutes a significant part of their work (20% or more)

Lobbyists' Code of Conduct

The Code sets standards of behaviour for lobbyists and works alongside the ethical regimes that apply to federal officials.

All regulated lobbyists must apply the Code's rules in their lobbying and interactions with officials they lobby or expect to lobby.

By complying with the Code's rules, lobbyists:

- strengthen the ethical culture of lobbying
- avoid placing officials in real or apparent conflict of interest situations
- contribute to public confidence in the integrity of federal government institutions and decision making



Registry of Lobbyists

The Registry is a searchable database of all registered lobbying that enables transparency. It provides statistics and access to several reports.

Registrants must respect the disclosure requirements and timelines set by the *Lobbying Act* and its regulations – failure to file information or file on time is an offence.

Non-compliance

Concerns of federal lobbying requirements not being respected can result in compliance measures, including monitoring and investigation.

Failing to comply with the *Lobbying Act* is an offence. Anyone convicted of an offence may be subject to penalties – including fines, imprisonment, and/or a lobbying ban.

Any finding of non-compliance with the *Lobbyists' Code of Conduct* is reported to Parliament.



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(2023-11)