

## The Ontario Lobbyists Registration Act: What Non-Profits Need to Know

Lobbying is an important way that organizations — including non-profits — can influence public discourse and policy. In Ontario, there are rules that carefully govern lobbying and interactions between politicians and stakeholders, including non-profit organizations.

There is no limit on how much organizations are allowed to lobby the provincial government. But there is a point at which organizations are expected to register their lobbying. This factsheet explains when and how to register.

### What is Lobbying?

Lobbying is when we communicate with public office holders in an attempt to influence the actions, policies, or decisions of the government.

Lobbying includes any communications on:

- Provincial legislation, like Bills and regulations;
- Provincial programs;
- Policy changes and directives;
- Privatization;
- Grants or financial benefits.

With public office holders, who include:

- Any Minister, officer, or employee of the Crown;
- An MPP and any person on their staff;
- Any officer, director, or employee of any Crown agency, board, or commission; and
- Any member of the Ontario Provincial Police.

### What *Isn't* Considered Lobbying?

- Submissions about the enforcement, interpretation, or application of any legislation, policy, or directives;
- Submissions to legislative committees that are a matter of public record;
- Responses to written requests for information, advice, or comment from a public office holder;
- Routine constituency communications that are a matter of private interest.

### When Does My Organization Need to Register as a Lobbyist?

Registration is required when your organization has either:

- 1) A “paid lobbyist” from outside your organisation; or
- 2) An “in-house lobbyist” who is a paid employee of your organization engaged in lobbying for 50 or more hours a year.



You must register lobbyists with the [Office of the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario](#). It is good practice to keep track of how many hours your organization spends lobbying.

Registration should be done by the most senior paid employee in your organization, e.g., the Executive Director.

For more details on the registration process, [visit this website](#).