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This document accompanies
an IntegralOrg video toolkit

LOBBYING by Nonprofits and Charities: What nonprofits and charities need to know when lobbying across Canada



For nonprofits and charities
that lobby in the jurisdiction of

ALBERTA

The following accompanies an IntegralOrg video toolkit: *LOBBYING by Nonprofits and Charities:
What nonprofits and charities need to know when lobbying across Canada.*

This information is meant as a summary only of what IntegralOrg deemed to be useful and relevant
points of lobbying legislation in this jurisdiction current as of as of May 4, 2020.

Consult the appropriate legislation and read the disclaimer included in this document.

Legislation: Alberta – Lobbyists Act SA 2007, c L-20.5

Website/landing page

<https://www.albertalobbyistregistry.ca>

Registration URL/ How to Register

https://www.albertalobbyistregistry.ca/apex/f?p=171:9996:1427388443185:::CMS_SITE,CMS_PAGE:ABLBY,GET_STRTD

Does lobbying legislation apply to charities?

Yes, section 1(g)(iv) includes charities and nonprofits.

Exemptions

Yes, section 3(1)(i) exempts organizations from registering that do not serve employer, union or professional interests or have a majority of profit-seeking members.

Registration threshold

According to section 1(1)(h), the need to register is triggered when an employee or employees spend 50 hours or more a year on lobbying activities.

What activities count as lobbying?

According to section 1(1)(f), lobbying activities include communication with a public office holder, directly or through grassroots communication, in an attempt to influence the following:

- i. the development of any legislative proposal by the Government or a prescribed Provincial entity (see regulation) or by a Member of the Legislative Assembly,
- ii. the introduction of any bill or resolution in the Legislative Assembly or the amendment, passage or defeat of any bill or resolution that is before the Legislative Assembly,
- iii. the development or the enactment of any regulation or any order in council,
- iv. the development, establishment, amendment or termination of any program, policy, directive or guideline of the Government or a prescribed Provincial entity (see regulation)
- v. the awarding of any grant or financial benefit by or on behalf of the Government or a prescribed Provincial entity (see regulation),
- vi. a decision by the Executive Council or a member of the Executive Council to transfer from the Crown for consideration all or part of, or any interest in or asset of, any business, enterprise or institution that provides goods or services to the Crown or a prescribed Provincial entity or to the public, or
- vii. a decision by the Executive Council or a member of the Executive Council to have the private sector instead of the Crown provide goods or services to the Government

According to section 1(3.1) lobbying activities include planning and preparing for communications with a public office holder.

Penalties for not registering

According to section 18(2), a person who fails to comply with the Act may be required to pay the Crown a maximum administrative penalty of \$25,000, or if found guilty, liable under section 19(5) for a first offence of \$25,000, or a subsequent offence of per section 18(2) of the Act or fine for contravention of \$25,000 for a first time offence or up to \$100,000 for a subsequent offence, per section 19(5) of the Act, but not both.

Grassroots lobbying definition

“Grassroots communication” means appeals to members of the public through the mass media or by direct communication that seek to persuade members of the public to communicate directly with a public office holder in an attempt to place pressure on the public office holder to endorse a particular opinion, but does not include communication between an organization and its members, officers or employees or between a person or partnership and its shareholders, partners, officers or employees.

Does lobbying legislation apply to volunteers?

According to section 3(1)(l), the Act does not apply to volunteers who do not receive a payment.

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