

Lobbying in Canada by Jurisdiction: A Summary of Some Information Relevant to Nonprofits (NPs) and Charities

Jurisdiction	Applies to NPs/ Charities	Exemptions	Threshold for NPs/Charities for Registration and/or Filings
Federal - Lobbying Act, RSC 1985 c 44	YES – s 2(1)	No	When “in-house lobbyist” activities constitute 20% of the role of one employee or would constitute 20% of the role of one employee if all the lobbying activities were performed by one employee.
BC - Lobbyists Registration Act, SBC 2001, c 42	YES – s 1(1)	No	When “in-house lobbyist” is an employee, officer or director of an organization with 6 or more employees, paid to lobby for at least 50 hours annually unless the primary purpose of the organization is to represent the interests of its members, or to promote or oppose issues, and the lobbying by the individual is for that purpose.
Alberta – Lobbyists Act, SA 2007 c L-20.5	YES – s 1(g)(iv)	YES – s 3(1)(i) Act does not apply to directors, officers or employees of an organization not constituted to serve management, union or professional interests nor having a majority of members that are profit-seeking enterprises or representatives of profit-seeking enterprises	If organization not exempted, when “organization lobbyist” has duty to lobby either alone or together with other persons in the organization for at least 50 hours annually.
Saskatchewan – The Lobbyists Act, SS 2014, c L-27.01	YES – s 2(1)(m)(v)	YES – s 4(1)(i) Act does not apply to directors, officers or employees of an organization not constituted to serve management, union or professional interests nor having a majority of members that are profit-seeking enterprises or representatives of profit-seeking enterprises.	If organization is not exempted, when “in-house lobbyist” has duty to lobby either alone or together with other individuals in the organization for at least 100 hours annually.
Manitoba – Lobbyist Registration Act, C.C.S.M. c L178	YES – s 1(1)	YES – s 3(1)(e) Act does not apply to officers, directors or employees of a charitable or not-for-profit organization, unless the organization is constituted to serve employer, union or professional interests or the interests of for-profit organizations.	If organization is not exempted when “in-house lobbyist” has duty to lobby, together with the lobbying or duty to lobby of other employees of the organization amounts to at least 100 hours annually.
Ontario – Lobbyist Registration Act, SO 1998 c 27	YES – s 1(1)	No	When “in house lobbyist” has duty to lobby together with the duties of other employees to lobby for at least 50 hours a year.
Quebec – Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act, CQLR c T-11.011	YES – s 3	YES – s 1(11) LTE Exclusion Regulation CQLR c T-11.011, r 1 The following are not considered to be lobbyists for the purposes of the Act: any person whose job or function consists, even substantially, in lobbying on behalf of an association or other non-profit group not constituted to serve management, union or professional interests, nor composed of a majority of members that are profit-seeking enterprises or representatives of profit-seeking enterprises.	If organization is not exempted, when an “organization lobbyist”, any person a significant part of whose job or function consists in lobbying on behalf of an association or other nonprofit group organization, must register no later than the sixtieth day, after the lobbyist begins to conduct lobbying activities means.
New Brunswick – Lobbyists Registration Act, RSNB 2014, c 11	YES – s 1	No	When “in house lobbyist” has duty individually or with other employees to lobby 20% of time in a 3-month period.
Newfoundland and Labrador – Lobbyist Registration Act, SNL 2004 c L-24.1	YES – s 2(1)(e)(iv)	No	When “in house lobbyist” has duty individually or with other employees to lobby 20% of time in a 3-month period.
Nova Scotia – Lobbyists’ Registration Act SNS 2001 c 34	YES – s 2(d)(iv)	No	When “in house lobbyist” has duty individually or with other employees to lobby 20% of time in a 3-month period.
PEI – Lobbyists Registration Act, RSPEI 1988 c L-16.01	YES – s 1(1)(f)(iv)	No	When “in house lobbyist” has duty individually or with other employees to lobby 50 hours in a 3-month period.
Yukon – Lobbyists Registration Act SY 2018 c 13 (Not yet in force)	YES – s 2(d)	No	When “in house lobbyist” spends more than 20 hours annually on lobbying activities.
Northwest Territories – No lobbying Act			
Nunavut – No lobbying Act			

This chart accompanies an IntegralOrg video toolkit: LOBBYING by Nonprofits and Charities: What nonprofits and charities need to know when lobbying in Canada. See www.integralorg.ca.

Information in this chart is current until May 4, 2020.

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