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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

MANITOBA

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: Manitoba – The Lobbyists’ Registration Act

C.C.S.M. c. L178

Website/landing page

<https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/l178e.php>

http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/_pdf.php?cap=L178

Registration URL/ How to Register

<https://registry.lobbyistregistrar.mb.ca/lra/index.do>

Does lobbying legislation apply to charities?

Yes, section 1(1) defines an “organization” to include a charitable or nonprofit organization.

Exemptions

Section 3(1) of the Act provides that the Act does not apply to officers, directors, or employees of a charitable or not-for-profit organization (when acting in their official capacity), unless the organization is constituted to serve employer, union or professional interests or the interests of for-profit organizations.

Registration threshold

According to section 4(1), a consultant lobbyist is required to file a registration return within 10 days of entering into an undertaking on behalf of a client. With respect to an in-house lobbyist, section 5(1) requires the senior officer of an organization that has an in-house lobbyist to file a return within two months of the lobbyist's start date and within two months after the end of each prior return's six month period.

Note that a person is an in-house lobbyist if his or her lobbying activity, alone or in combination with the lobbying activity of other employees amounts to a “significant part of his or her duties”. This is defined in the Lobbyist Registration Regulation to be a minimum of 100 hours per year which includes any preparation time directly related to and necessary for the lobbying activity.

What activities count as lobbying?

Section 1(1) defines lobbying to mean communication with a public official in an attempt to influence:

- i. the development of a legislative proposal by the Manitoba government or by a member of the Legislative Assembly,
- ii. the introduction of a bill or resolution in the Legislative Assembly or the amendment, passage or defeat of a bill or resolution that is before the Legislative Assembly,
- iii. the making or amendment of a regulation to which The Statutes and Regulations Act applies,

- iv. the development, amendment or termination of a program or policy of the Manitoba government or a government agency, or
- v. the award of a grant, contribution or other financial benefit by or on behalf of the Crown.

In relation to a consultant lobbyist specifically, arranging a meeting between a public official and another person, or communicating with a public official in an attempt to influence the award of a contract by or on behalf of the Crown, also constitute lobbying.

Penalties for not registering

According to Section 18(4) a person who commits an offence under this Act is liable to a fine of not more than \$25,000.

Grassroots lobbying definition

“Grassroots” communication lobbying is not defined under the Lobbyists’ Registration Act.

Does lobbying legislation apply to volunteers?

The Act does not apply to a volunteer who does not receive a payment or other benefit

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