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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

# **NOVA SCOTIA**

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: Nova Scotia – Lobbyists Registration Act

## SNS 2001, c 34

### Website/landing page

<https://novascotia.ca/sns/lobbyist/>

### Registration URL/ How to Register

<https://novascotia.ca/sns/lobbyist/>

### Does lobbying legislation apply to charities?

Yes, section 2(1)(d)(iv) includes associations, charitable organizations, coalitions and interest groups.

### Exemptions

There are no exemptions for nonprofits and charities.

### Registration threshold

According to section 6(1)(b) an in-house lobbyist means an individual who is employed by a person or organization to lobby, as a significant part of their employment duties, on behalf of that person or organization, as determined in accordance with the regulations.

### What activities count as lobbying?

According to section 2(1)(c) “lobby” means to communicate with a public-office holder, directly or through grass-roots communication, to attempt to influence the following:

- i. the development of any legislative proposal by the Government of the Province or by a member of the House of Assembly,
- ii. the introduction of any bill or resolution in the House of Assembly or the passage, defeat or amendment of any bill or resolution that is before the House of Assembly,
- iii. the making or amendment of any regulation,
- iv. the development or amendment of any policy or program of the Government of the Province or the termination of any program of the Government of the Province,
- v. a decision by 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 to the public,
- vi. a decision by the Executive Council, a committee of the Executive Council or a minister of the Crown to have the private sector instead of the Crown provide goods or services to the Crown or,
- vii. the awarding of any grant, contribution or other financial benefit by or on behalf of the Crown.

According to section 3(2), the following activities are not lobbying:

- i. submissions made in response to a government request for comment on an issue,
- ii. a submission to a committee of the House of Assembly that is on the public record or to any body or person with jurisdiction under legislation,

- iii. a submission to a public servant about how he or she enforces, interprets, or applies legislation or regulations, or administers a policy, program, directive, or guideline with respect to the person, partnership or organization being represented,
- iv. a submission to an MLA on behalf of a constituent about a personal matter unless that submission is about a private bill for the personal benefit of the constituent,
- v. communication by a trade union regarding administration or negotiation of a collective agreement,
- vi. communication by a trade union related to representation of a member or former member who is or was employed in the public service, and
- vii. a submission by a barrister of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia regarding drafting of a legislative proposal.

### Penalties for not registering

An individual who fails to register properly or knowingly makes a false or misleading statement, is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction for a fine of up to \$100,000 for a second or subsequent offence according to section 18(5).

### Grassroots lobbying definition

According to section 2(1)(b) “grass-roots 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, officers or employees.

### Does lobbying legislation apply to volunteers?

According to section 6(1) the Act only applies to individuals who are compensated for their lobbying efforts.

#### DISCLAIMER

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