



**INTEGRALORG**  
Your mission is ours

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

# **ONTARIO**

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: Ontario – Lobbyist Registration Act, SO 1998, c 27

## Website/landing page

<http://www.oico.on.ca/home/lobbyists-registration/overview>

## Registration URL/ How to Register

<http://www.oico.on.ca/home/lobbyists-registration/the-registration-process>

## Does lobbying legislation apply to charities?

Yes, section 1(1)(d) defines an “organization” to includeincludes associations, charitable organizations, coalitions or interest groups.

## Exemptions

There are no exemptions for nonprofits and charities.

## Registration threshold

According to section 5(7)(a) an in-house lobbyist is defined as an employee or director of an organization who is compensated for their performance of lobbying activities for at least 50 hours annually.

## What activities count as lobbying?

According to section 1(1), a consultant or in-house lobbyist is engaged in lobbying when they communicate with a public official in an attempt to influence:

- i. the development of any legislative proposal by the Government of Ontario or by a member of the Legislative Assembly,
- ii. the introduction of any bill or resolution in the Legislative Assembly or the passage, defeat or amendment of any bill or resolution that is before the Legislative Assembly,
- iii. the making or amendment of any regulation as defined in Part III (Regulations) of the Legislation Act, 2006,
- iv. the development or amendment of any policy or program of the Government of Ontario or the termination of any program of the Government of Ontario,
- 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, and
- vii. the awarding of any grant, contribution or other financial benefit by or on behalf of the Crown.

A consultant lobbyist is also considered to be engaged in lobbying when they communicate with a public office holder in an attempt to influence the awarding of a contract by or on behalf of the Crown, or arrange a meeting between a public office holder and any other person.

### Penalties for not registering

According to section 18(8) t), a person who fails to comply with a provision of the Act will be convicted and liable for a maximum fine of \$25,000 for a first-time offence or up to \$100,000 each subsequent offence.

### Grassroots lobbying definition

“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.

### Does lobbying legislation apply to volunteers?

Registration requirements only apply to consultant lobbyists and in-house lobbyists, which are defined as individuals who are employed and compensated to perform lobbying activities.

### Additional

*Public Accountability and Lobbyist Transparency Act, 2020* (Bill 162) received its second reading on Feb. 20, 2020. Note that the amendments will change the requirements for the contents of the return filed by lobbyists.

#### DISCLAIMER

All information or advice provided as part of this presentation is intended to be general in nature and you should not rely on it in connection with the making of any decision.

IntegralOrg tries to ensure that all information provided is correct at the time of the presentation but does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of such information.

All content, information and advice is provided on an “as is” basis and IntegralOrg hereby expressly disclaims all liability for any action you may take as a result of relying on such content, information or advice or for any loss or damage suffered by you as a result of you taking this action.

Neither IntegralOrg nor any of its employees or agents shall be liable for any damages either direct, indirect, special, consequential, punitive or other damages (including but not limited to financial losses, loss of data, loss of profits, loss of business, and business interruption) arising out of the use of the content, information or advice provided herein.

