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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

SASKATCHEWAN

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: Saskatchewan – The Lobbyists Act, SS 2014, c L-27.01

Website/landing page

<https://www.sasklobbyistregistry.ca/>

Registration URL/ How to Register

<https://www.sasklobbyistregistry.ca/lobbyists/>

Does lobbying legislation apply to charities?

Yes, section 2(1)(m)(v) includes non-profit organizations, associations, societies, coalitions and interest groups.

Exemptions

Yes, section 4(1)(i) exempts officers, directors and employees of non-profit organizations from registering if they do not serve an employer, union or professional interests and do not have a majority of their members as profit seeking.

Note that there is a proposed amendment to the Act which will remove the current section 4(1)(i) and replace it with a new provision providing that officers, directors and employees of non-profit organizations that have both a charitable purpose and fewer than 5 employees will not be required to register if the amount of lobbying activity performed by the officers, directors and employees combined is less than 30 hours annually.

Registration threshold

According to section 2(1)(h) an in-house lobbyist is defined as an employee, officer or director of an organization who is paid to spend at least 100 hours annually on lobbying activities.

Note that there is a proposed amendment to section 2(1)(h) revising the threshold from 100 to 30 hours.

What activities count as lobbying?

According to section 2(1)(i), a consultant or in-house lobbyist will be considered to be engaging in lobbying activities when they communicate with a public office holder in an attempt to influence:

- i. the development of any legislative proposal by the Government of Saskatchewan, a government institution or 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 within the meaning of Part 4 of The Legislation Act or any order in council,
- iv. the development, establishment, amendment or termination of any program, policy, directive or guideline of the Government of Saskatchewan or a government institution,

- v. the awarding, amendment or termination of any grant, contract or financial benefit by or on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan or a government institution.
- vi. a decision by the Executive Council or a minister of the Crown 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 government institution or to the public, or
- vii. a decision by the Executive Council or a minister of the Crown to have the private sector instead of the Crown provide goods or services to the Government of Saskatchewan.

Consultant Lobbyists are also considered to be engaging in lobbying when they arrange a meeting between a public office holder and another individual.

In-house lobbyists are considered to be engaging in lobbying when they arrange a meeting between a public office holder and any other individual for the purposes of attempting to influence any of the matters listed above

Penalties for not registering

Any person who contravenes a provision of this Act is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction up to \$25,000 for a first offence, and \$100,000 for a subsequent offence. Additionally, Section 20(2) indicates that the Registrar may impose a maximum administrative penalty of \$25,000.

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..

Does lobbying legislation apply to volunteers?

According to section 4(1)(k), the Act does not apply to volunteers.

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