

November 28, 2018

Upcoming changes to the *Lobbyist Registration Act*

On November 27, Bill 54, the *Lobbyists Registration Amendment Act, 2018*, received Royal Assent. It contains a number of amendments to the *Lobbyists Registration Act* to increase transparency in lobbying.

The most immediate change amends the definition of “former public office holder” in the *Lobbyists Registration Act* (LRA).

The new “former public office holder” definition means that anyone who was formerly employed in a Minister’s office, whether the Minister is still in office or not, is now considered to be a former public office holder and must declare that fact in the Lobbyists Registry. This change comes into force on December 27, 2018.

If this change in the definition of “former public office holder” affects you, you have until December 26, 2018 to amend your registration in the Lobbyists Registry or, if you seek an exemption for the two-year prohibition on lobbying, to submit your application for exemption to the Registrar.

The remaining amendments in the *Lobbyists Registration Amendment Act, 2018* require building a new Lobbyists Registry. As a result, the coming into force date for those amendments will be set by regulation. Notice will be provided on the ORL website.

The key amendments include:

- change in the title of the Act to *Lobbyists Transparency Act*;
- monthly reporting of *actual* lobbying and the names of a broader range of public office holders who are lobbied;
- harmonized registration for both classes of lobbyists (consultant and in-house);
- reporting whether a consultant lobbyist works under a contingency fee arrangement and whether a lobbyist subscribes to a relevant code of conduct;
- reporting whether lobbyists have made reportable political contributions to a member of the legislative assembly (MLA) they are lobbying;
- new gift rules and reporting based on the *Members’ Conflict of Interest Act* to apply for all public office holders being lobbied;
- stronger compliance and enforcement powers for the Registrar; and
- mandatory, five-year review of the *Lobbyists Transparency Act* by parliamentary committee.

The *Lobbyists Registration Amendment Act, 2018* can be viewed [online](#).