



GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

COALITIONS

February 6, 2020

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

The *Lobbyists Transparency Act* (LTA) contains reporting requirements for coalitions. This guidance document explains the BC Lobbyists Registry reporting requirements with respect to coalitions.

If an organization or the client of a consultant lobbyist is a coalition or a member of a coalition, lobbyists must declare the name and business address of each member of the coalition in the Lobbyists Registry.

What is a coalition?

The term “coalition” means an alliance of separate entities or persons that have joined together for a common purpose or action.

The members of the coalition remain independent organizations or individuals, united only by a common goal.

A coalition (separate entities) is distinct from an association (a single entity, even if member-based). If there is one legal entity¹, it is an association. If there are several legal entities that are operating together under a common unincorporated name or banner, then it is a coalition. If an organization is its own legal entity, it would not be identified in the Lobbyists Registry as a coalition.

Alternatively, if the organization is a more loosely based coalition that could not be considered its own legal entity, all the members of the coalition, and their business addresses, should be entered in the appropriate fields.

¹ A legal entity may be an association, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trust, or individual that has a separate legal identity and capacity to (1) enter into agreements or contracts, (2) assume obligations, (3) incur and pay debts, (4) sue and be sued in its own right, and (5) be accountable for illegal activities. Reference: Black’s Law Dictionary, thelawdictionary.org/legal-entity/.

COALITION GUIDANCE

If my client or organization is a coalition, or a member of a coalition, what information must I include in the Lobbyists Registry?

Consultant lobbyists and designated filers for organizations are required to list the name and business address of each member of the coalition.

What if I don't know whether my client or organization is a coalition or a member of a coalition?

Due diligence is required. If in doubt, lobbyists need to find out whether the client or organization is a coalition or a member of a coalition, and if so, obtain the names and business addresses of each member of the coalition, in order to enter accurate information in the Lobbyists Registry.

What if my client or organization is a member of a coalition that is not related to the lobbying activities being reported?

The consultant lobbyist or the designated filer for an organization must identify any coalition to which the client or organization belongs if the purpose of the coalition is related to the lobbying activities engaged in by the client or organization.

What if I have questions about coalitions and lobbying?

After reading this guidance document, if you have questions, contact the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists for BC for assistance at info@bcorl.ca

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