



**GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

**BC LOBBYISTS REGISTRY USER GUIDE: ACCESSING  
INFORMATION IN THE LOBBYISTS REGISTRY**

**Revised: April 23, 2026**

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## PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

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### Notice

This document is for information purposes only and does not constitute a decision or finding by the Registrar of Lobbyists for British Columbia or their delegates. This guidance does not affect the powers, duties or functions of the Registrar of Lobbyists, or their delegates, regarding any investigation or other matter under the *Lobbyists Transparency Act*, respecting which the Registrar and their delegates will keep an open mind. Responsibility for compliance with the *Lobbyists Transparency Act* remains with each client, lobbyist, and public office holder.

Lobbying is a legitimate means of participating in a democratic system. BC's lobbying law promotes the integrity of the system by ensuring transparency in who is trying to influence provincial government level decision-makers.

The [Lobbyists Registry](#) (the Registry) is an online portal for the public to learn about lobbying activities with BC public office holders. Similar registries exist in other Canadian provinces, territories, and Federal jurisdictions.<sup>1</sup>

Citizens, journalists, organizations, and members of the public can find a wealth of freely accessible information in the Registry. This guide helps readers understand what information is available in the Registry and provides examples on how to search the Registry to access that information.

## WHAT IS LOBBYING?

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If someone is being paid to communicate with a *public office holder* at the provincial government level in an attempt to influence any of the following, it is lobbying:

- Legislation, a legislative proposal, or a regulation;
- A program, policy, directive, or guideline;
- A contract, grant, or financial benefit;
- Transfer of a government asset;
- A decision to have the private sector instead of the government provide goods or services

*Public office holders* include more than just elected officials. Public office holders include Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), ministers, staff of MLAs and ministers, and any employee of the government of BC. Additionally, any person appointed by a minister or the

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<sup>1</sup> Exceptions at time of publication are Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Lieutenant Governor in Council, as well as officers, directors, or employees of Provincial entities\* are considered public office holders under the [Lobbyists Transparency Act](#). Lobbying any of these individuals may require registration.

\*Provincial entities include crown corporations (like BC Hydro), school districts, public post-secondary institutions (colleges and universities), and health authorities.

## WHAT INFORMATION IS IN THE LOBBYISTS REGISTRY?

Lobbyists are subject to the [Lobbyists Transparency Act](#) (LTA). The LTA requires lobbyists to publicly report their lobbying activities in BC in a searchable Registry. The Registry provides the public with reports of lobbying activities and statistics with the click of a button. This includes information about who is lobbying, who is being lobbied, what the subject matter of the lobbying is, and whether any gifts were given, amongst other things.

The [Registry Dashboard](#) lets you see which organizations and individuals are currently lobbying government. The dashboard also houses the Registry's search and advanced search functions.

The screenshot displays the Lobbyists Registry dashboard. At the top left, there is a search bar with the text "Search the registry" and a search icon. Below the search bar, there are radio buttons for "Last 12 months" (selected) and "Advanced search".

On the left side, there is a "Just posted" section with two tabs: "Lobbying Activity Reports" and "Registration Returns". Below the tabs, there are four entries for lobbying activity reports, each with the organization name, Senior Public Office Holders, and the lobbying activity date.

In the center, there is an "Active registrations" section with a table showing the number of registrations for different categories:

Consultant registrations:	368
Organization registrations:	601
<b>Total active registrations:</b>	<b>969</b>

Below this, there is a "Last reporting period statistics" section with a table comparing data for April 2022 and May 2022, along with a change percentage and a trend indicator (up or down arrow).

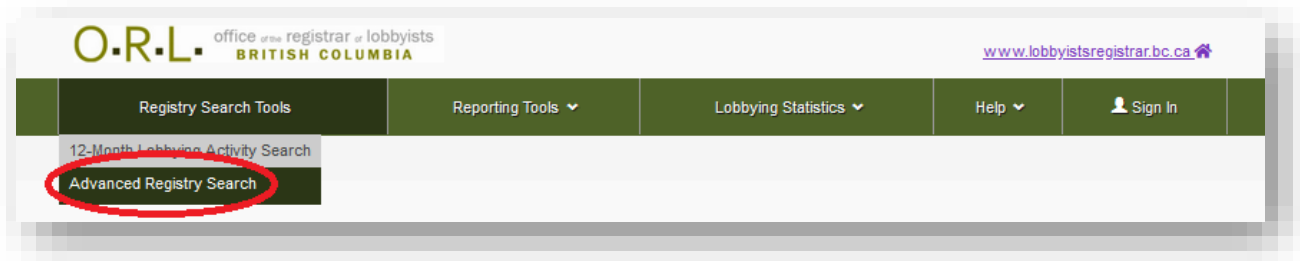
	Apr 2022	May 2022	Change
New Registrations	35	25	-29%
Updated Registrations	208	222	7%
Reactivated Registrations	5	11	120%
Ended Registrations	21	35	67%
Lobbying Activity Reports	603	720	19%

On the right side, there is a "Register for an account" section with a large text box asking "are you a lobbyist in BC?" and a "Create an account" button. Below this, there are links for "Are you a Lobbyist in BC?", "Create an account", and "Related links" which include "LTA Guidance Documents", "Using the Registry", "Legislation", "LTA Frequently Asked Questions", and "Contact Us".

## SEARCHING THE REGISTRY

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The main search tool is found on the Registry Dashboard and can be used as a simple, free-text search, much like any online search function. For a more precise search tool, go to the “Registry Search Tools” tab then click on [Advanced Registry Search](#) in the drop-down menu.



The advanced search lets you focus your results by document type and date range. It also allows you to set search criteria to focus in on organizations, lobbyists, specific subject areas, and ministries or provincial entities.

### Did you know?

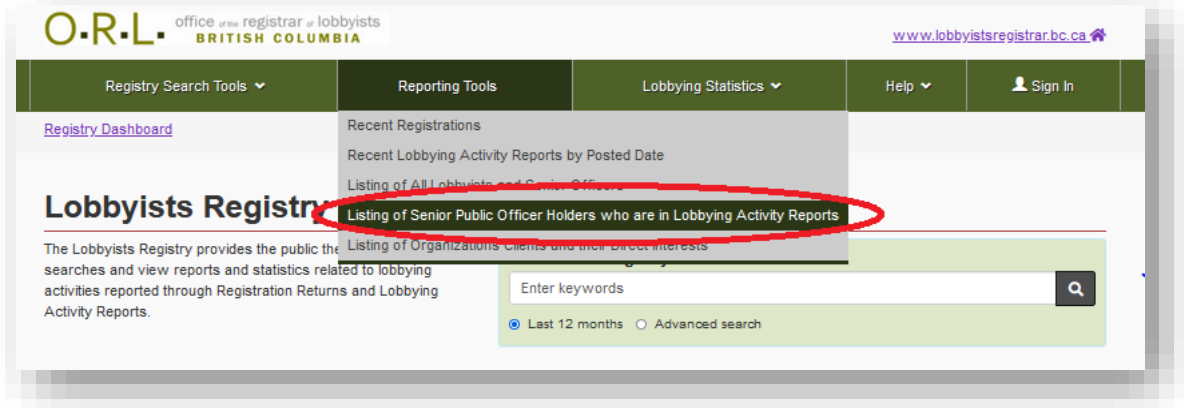
*Not all lobbying activities need to be registered*

- Volunteers are not required to register their activities, as they are not being paid to communicate with public office holders.
- Citizens may communicate with public office holders on their own behalf without registering.
- Requests for information or responding directly to a public office holder’s written request for advice do not require registration.
- Submissions that are made on the public record to a committee of the legislative assembly, as well as communications from other levels of government, do not require registration.
- It is possible that a lobbyist has not properly registered their activity in the Registry. If you think this may be the case, please contact the ORL at [info@bcorl.ca](mailto:info@bcorl.ca).

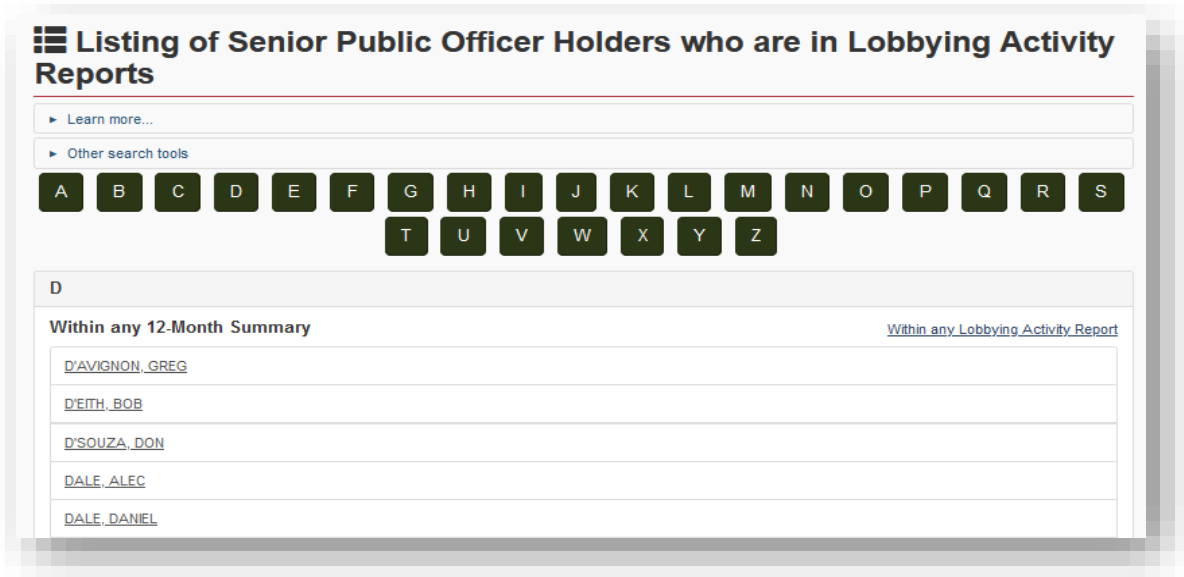
## Using the Registry – Example #1

**Scenario:** The COVID-19 pandemic brought about several changes to public health policies. You are interested in finding out which organizations are lobbying public health officials.

- 1) From the [Registry Dashboard](#), click on the “Reporting Tools” tab and then scroll down to [Listing of Senior Public Officer holders who are in Lobbying Activity Reports](#) in the drop down menu.



- 2) You can browse by last name to find the Provincial Health Officer, Minister of Health or other senior public office holder you are seeking.



- 3) After selecting a senior public office holder, you will see a list of the organizations who have lobbied them over the past 12 months. If they have only been lobbied by a single organization in the past 12 months, you will see a summary of that organization's activities.

**Q 12-Month Lobbying Activity Search Results**

**Search Criteria**

- 1. Senior public office holder (SPOH) last name: DIX AND;
- 2. Senior public office holder (SPOH) first name: ADRIAN

[Start over](#) [Modify criteria](#)

**Refine By**

**Activity Status**

- [Active](#) 67
- [Inactive](#) 2

**Activity Type**

- [Organization](#) 60

**Search Results for the Last 12 Months**

Results: 1-50 of 69

1 2 Next →

**The British Columbia College of Family Physicians (A Chapter of the College of Family Physicians of Canada)**  
Organization: Toby Achtman  
Lobbying Activity Reports: 19  
● Currently active [View Summary](#)

**Thrive Health Inc.**  
Organization: David Helliwell  
Lobbying Activity Reports: 21  
● Currently active [View Summary](#)

**The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (The Fur-Bearers)**  
Organization: Lesley Fox  
Lobbying Activity Reports: 16  
● Currently active [View Summary](#)

## REGISTRATION RETURNS AND LOBBYING ACTIVITY REPORTS

Lobbyists are required to register their activities via two primary forms: *Registration Returns* and *Lobbying Activity Reports*.

- *Registration Returns* contain all the basic information for the lobbyist, such as contact info, topics the lobbyist intends to lobby on, their intended outcomes, and which parts of government, crown corporations, or other provincial entities they intend to lobby.
- *Lobbying Activity Reports* are statements of individual instances of lobbying with senior public office holders. These reports include details about specific dates that meetings took place, the subjects discussed, and which senior public office holders and individual lobbyists were involved.

### Did you know?

#### *Rules for social media and lobbying*

- Social media content, such as tweets or Facebook posts, can be considered lobbying.
- If a lobbyist uses social media to directly lobby a public office holder, that communication must be reported in the Lobbyists Registry.

*Registration Returns* and *Lobbying Activity Reports* can both be accessed through the Registry.

## Using the Registry – Example #2

**Scenario:** You run a ride-share company and have heard a lot of talk about other ride-share companies aiming to expand services in BC. You want to see which companies are lobbying government on this subject.

- 1) From the [Registry Dashboard](#) you can hover over the “Reporting Tools” tab and click [Listing of Organizations Clients and their Direct Interests](#) to browse different organizations that have lobbied government in the past 12 months.
- 2) Once you have found a ride-share company that interests you, click on their name to see a list of their lobbying activities in the past 12 months.
- 3) Clicking on “View Summary” will give you a detailed breakdown of the subjects and intended outcomes that were lobbied.

## Using the Registry – Example #3

**Scenario:** You are a journalist investigating housing affordability in BC. You want to find out how frequently housing is a subject matter of lobbying with government, who is doing this lobbying, and how this has changed over the past several years.

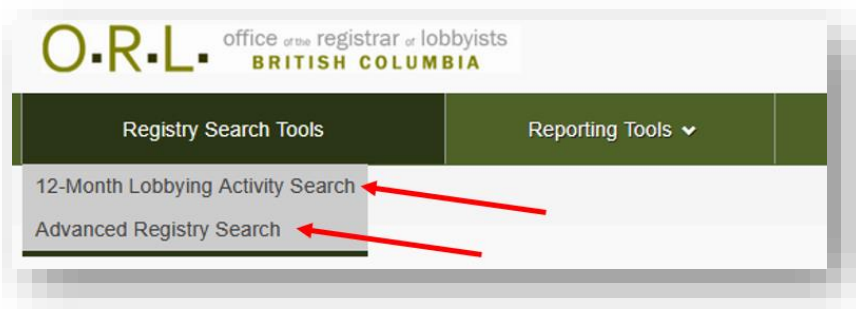
- 1) From the [Registry Dashboard](#) go to the “Lobbying Statistics” tab and click on [Subject Matter in Active Registrations](#). This will show the current subjects that are being lobbied with government, as well as the number of active registrations for each topic.
- 2) By clicking on the “Trends” tab, you can set a date range to see how the number of active registrations has changed over time. Once you have set the dates of interest, you can click on the number of active registrations to see exactly which organizations are lobbying on the subject of housing within a specified period.
- 3) Click on the “Historical” tab to find a count of the subject matter being currently lobbied, along with a comparison of counts from the previous five months.
- 4) You can follow the same process with Lobbying Activity Reports. Hover over the “Lobbying Statistics” tab and click on the [Subject Matter in Lobbying Activity Reports](#) option to explore the “Current,” “Historical,” and “Trends” information for Lobbying Activity Reports.

## SEARCH ALERTS

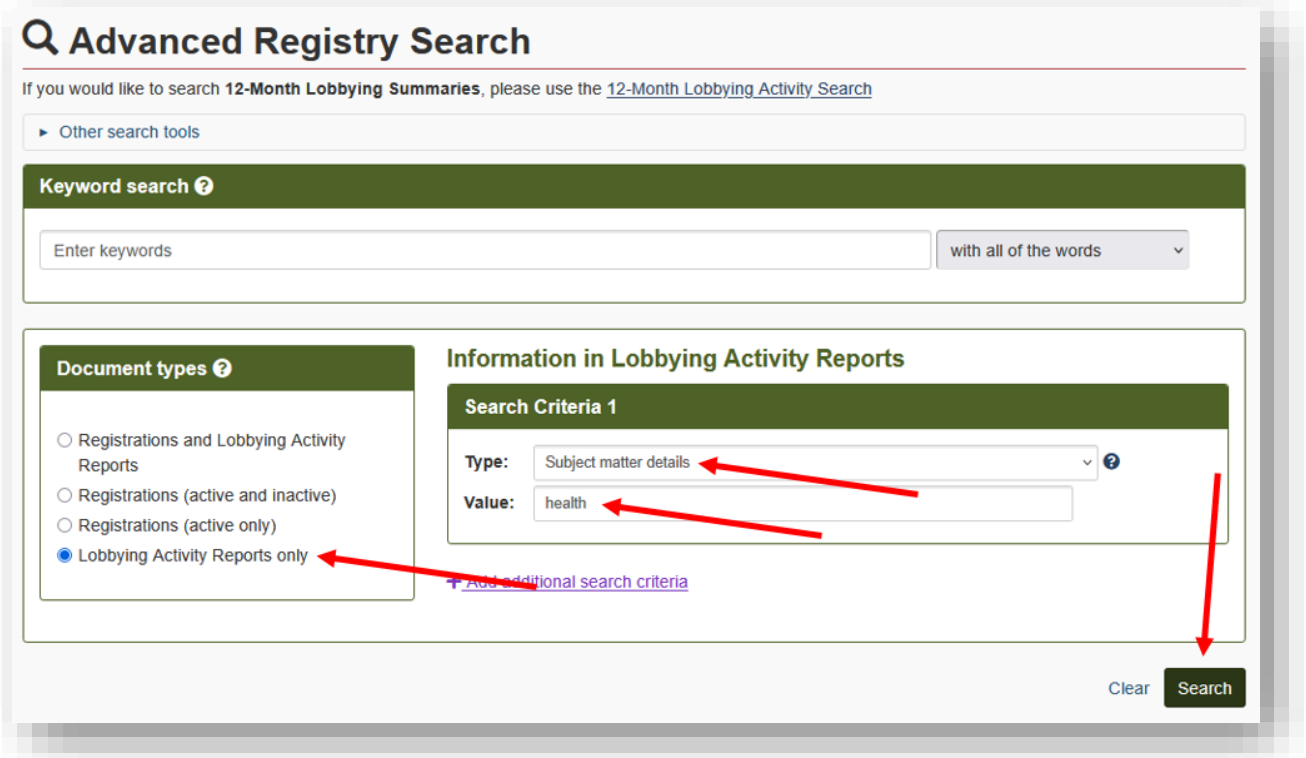
Users of the Registry’s search features can use the **Search Alert** function to receive email notifications that advise when new results are available that match specific search criteria.

### Creating a Search Alert

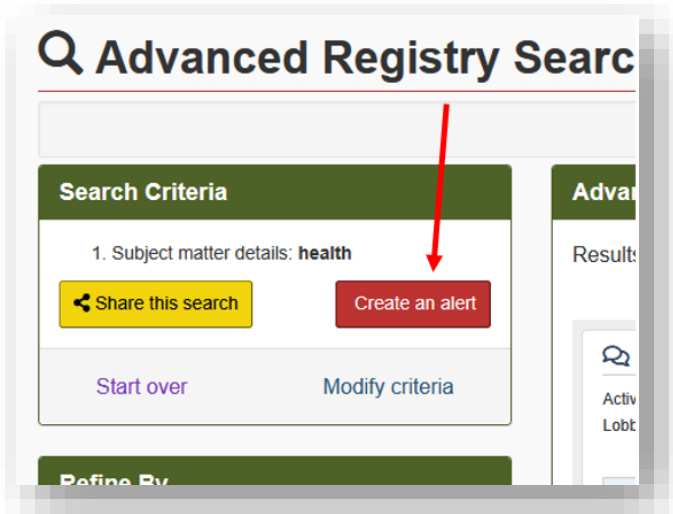
1. To set up a Search Alert, you will first need to perform either a “12-Month Lobbying Activity Search” or an “Advanced Registry Search.”



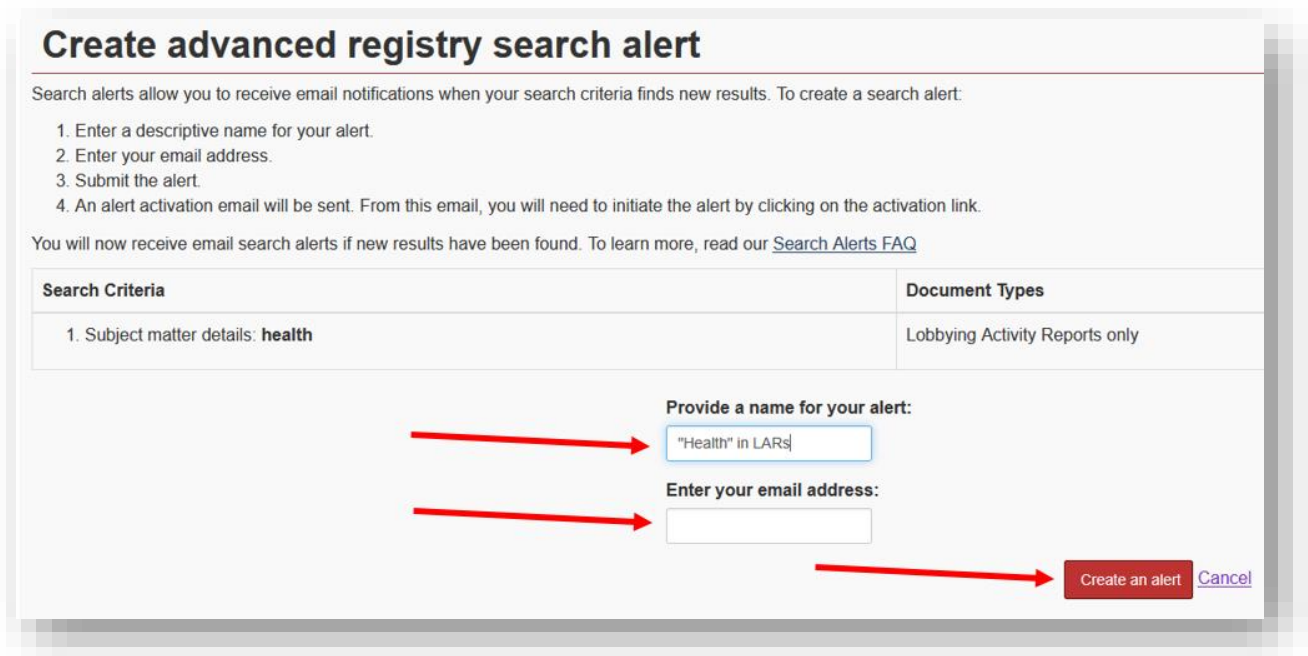
2. Using one of these search tools, enter the criteria you would like to search for in the Registry. As an example, you could perform an “Advanced Registry Search” for all Lobbying Activity Reports that include the word “health” in the “Subject matter details” field:



3. On the results page, click the “Create an alert” button to create a Search Alert for any future entries to the Registry that match this specific search criteria.



On the page that follows, enter a descriptive name for the alert, along with your email address, and then click “Create an alert.”



4. The Registry will then send an activation email to the email address entered. You will need to initiate the alert by clicking the “**Activate my search alert**” button in that email.

CAUTION: This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

**Note:** This is a system generated email. Please do not reply to this message.

You are receiving this message because your email address was used to create a search alert from the [Registry of Lobbyists](#).

Search alert name: **“Health” in LARs**

You must confirm your subscription before 2026-04-03 to activate the alert. A page will appear, confirming your subscription.

If you do not wish to receive search alerts, simply ignore this email. The alert subscription will not be activated.

[Activate my search alert](#) ←

**Making changes to your search alert**

- To stop the alerts at any time, click on the unsubscribe link provided at the bottom of your search notification emails.
- If you wish to change alert criteria, simply access your existing search, modify the criteria, and create a new alert.
- Search alerts will last 12 months after activation. A notification will be sent 10 days prior to expiry, which also will allow you to renew the alert.

Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists for BC  
[info@bcorl.ca](mailto:info@bcorl.ca) / Tel: 250-387-2686

Once you have initiated the alert, you will receive an email from the Registry the day after any new submission has been made to the Registry that matches your Search Alert criteria.

View Search Alert Results

If there are any new submissions made to the Registry that match your Search Alert criteria, you will receive an email the following day showing the number of new results.

As an example, the screenshot below shows two new results for entries to the Registry from the previous day that match the Search Alert criteria.

CAUTION: This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

**Note:** This is a system generated email. Please do not reply to this message.

One or more of your advanced registry searches have new results.

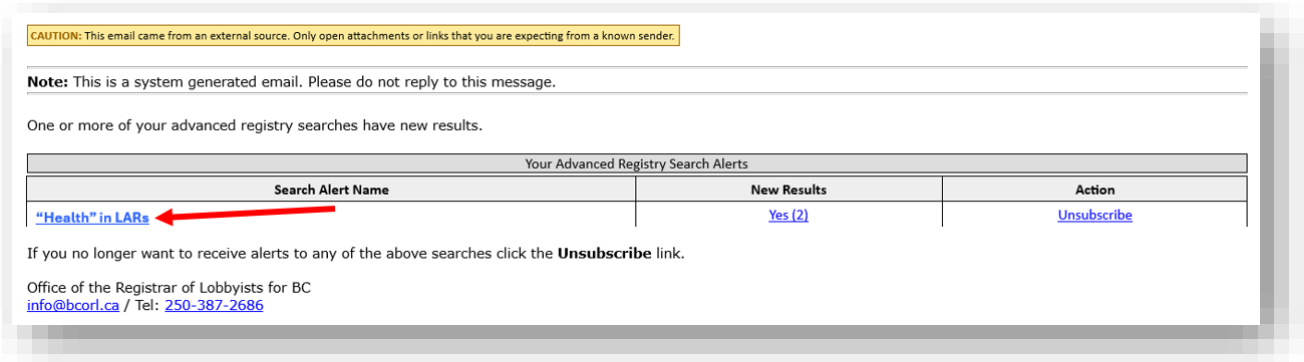
Your Advanced Registry Search Alerts		
Search Alert Name	New Results	Action
<a href="#">“Health” in LARs</a>	<a href="#">Yes (2)</a>	<a href="#">Unsubscribe</a>

If you no longer want to receive alerts to any of the above searches click the **Unsubscribe** link.

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[info@bcorl.ca](mailto:info@bcorl.ca) / Tel: 250-387-2686

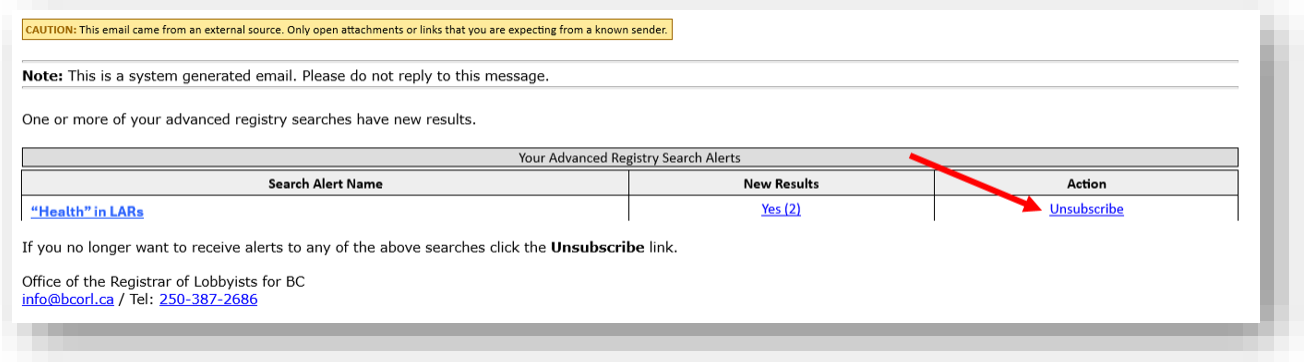
To view the **new** results only, click the **“Yes(#)”** button (as shown above).

To view **all** results in the Registry that match the Search Alert criteria (not just those submitted the previous day), click the name of the Search Alert.



### Canceling a Search Alert

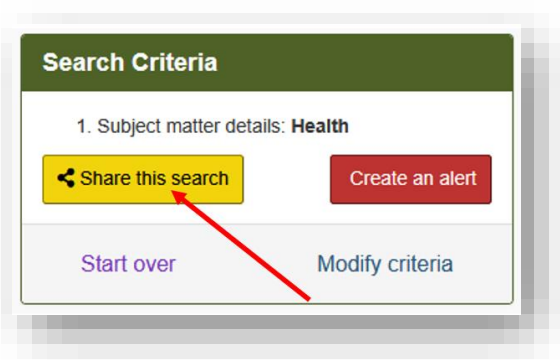
If you no longer want to receive a particular Search Alert, click the **“Unsubscribe”** button in the Search Alert email.



Unsubscribing from one Search Alert will **not** cancel any other Search Alerts you may have created. You will need to unsubscribe to each Search Alert separately if you would like it cancelled.

### Sharing Search Results

If you have performed a “12-Month Lobbying Activity Search” or an “Advanced Registry Search,” you can share the search results, or create a bookmark of it for yourself, by clicking the **“Share this search”** button on the search results page.



The URL located at the bottom of the pop-up page will reproduce the search with the same criteria as your original search.

**Share this search** ×

The search with the indicated criteria can be accessed through the link provided below. You can bookmark the search after clicking on the link.  
*Note:* If the provided URL is not accessed for a period of 3 months or more, it will expire and no longer be accessible.

Search Criteria	Document Types
1. Subject matter details: <b>Health</b>	Lobbying Activity Reports only

The following URL will access the search results for the above criteria:

[https://lrs-secure-86386a-test.apps.silver.devops.gov.bc.ca/app/secure/orl/lrs/do/advSrch?\\_ssTkn=3239433f-a56a-46ec-b932-a7e8cb80a424](https://lrs-secure-86386a-test.apps.silver.devops.gov.bc.ca/app/secure/orl/lrs/do/advSrch?_ssTkn=3239433f-a56a-46ec-b932-a7e8cb80a424)

Close

## Search Alerts Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is an advanced search alert?**
  - A search alert is an email notification letting you know that new results are available based on your criteria entered in the Advanced Registry Search. Search alerts are run daily and are easy to set up.
- 2. What is a 12-month activity search alert?**
  - A search alert is an email notification letting you know that new or modified results are available based on your criteria entered in the 12-Month Activity Search. Search alerts are run daily and are easy to set up.
- 3. How do I create a search alert?**
  - Perform a search in either the [12-month activity](#) or [advanced search](#).
  - On the results page, click the **Create Alert** button.
  - Enter a name for your search alert and your email address.
  - After submitting the create alert page, you will receive an alert activation email to which you will need to respond.
- 4. Will my email address be shared?**
  - No. The email you use for the search alerts will not be used for any other purpose other than to send you the alerts and will not be shared with any other

organization. When you no longer have active alerts, your email address is removed from the system.

5. **How many alerts can I set up?**
  - You can have up to 10 alerts per email address.
6. **How often are alerts sent out?**
  - Search alerts are sent daily. An email is sent when new results for any of your search alerts are found during the daily verification.
7. **What information is included in a search alert notification email?**
  - The alert notification email will include:
    - A list of all your current active alerts;
    - The number of new results for each alert and a link to view;
    - A link to view the results for each of your alerts; and
    - A link to unsubscribe any of the alerts
8. **How long will my alerts continue to run?**
  - Search alerts will last 12 months after activation. A notification will be sent 10 days prior to expiry, which also will allow you to renew the alert.
9. **How do I stop alerts if I no longer need them?**
  - You can unsubscribe from any alert at any time. A link to unsubscribe is included in every notification email.
10. **Can I modify an existing alert I created?**
  - No. Once you have created an alert, it is not possible to modify the criteria. If you wish to change alert criteria, simply access your existing search, modify the criteria, and create a new alert. You can then unsubscribe from the original alert you no longer require.

## QUICK LINKS AND FURTHER ASSISTANCE

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If you have further questions about lobbying or the Lobbyists Registry, please contact the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists for BC at [info@bcorl.ca](mailto:info@bcorl.ca) or review one of the resources listed below:

- [Using the Registry](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Guidance Documents](#)
- [Glossary](#)
- [Lobbyists Transparency Act](#)

These user guides, FAQs and guidance documents are continually updated on the website for reference.