

June 25, 2025

**2024/2025 ORL Annual Report and Service plan shows education-first approach
strengthening lobbying transparency in BC**

VICTORIA – In his first Annual Report and Service plan as Registrar of Lobbyists for British Columbia, Michael Harvey stressed the importance of lobbying transparency in upholding the integrity of public institutions, as well as his office’s “education-first” approach to compliance.

Over the period covered in the report, April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025, the ORL conducted 1,450 compliance reviews of entries in the Lobbyists Registry. Of those, nearly half, 748, required corrections to comply with the *Lobbyists Transparency Act* (LTA). The ORL launched investigations into only nine of these infractions and levied administrative penalties in five. Investigations were pursued in this small fraction of overall files where infractions were significant and investigating them helped educate the lobbyists involved and others about their responsibilities under the legislation.

The ORL also responded to 1,760 requests for information about BC’s lobbying rules during the reporting period, updated three guidance documents, provided additional educational resources to registered lobbyists, and delivered presentations to diverse groups on the LTA and its requirements.

Registrar Harvey said that the report reflects the effectiveness of the ORL’s education before enforcement approach, as well as the office’s efforts to support lobbyists to comply with the LTA and advance its transparency objectives. He noted that the Lobbyists Registry not only counters narratives of backroom deal-making by providing details on who is trying to lobby government, it also shows what voices might be missing from the decision-making table.

“Lobbyists bring diverse voices and the kind of specialized information government needs to make decisions in the public interest. But their role only serves our democracy when it is transparent, and the Lobbyists Registry provides that transparency,” said Registrar Harvey. “My office takes an education-first approach to applying the LTA, recognizing that in most cases helping people understand the rules is more effective than penalizing them after the fact.”

The ORL’s Service Plan provides details on work specific to the four service goals the office has identified:

1. Maintain and improve the Lobbyists Registry.
2. Educate lobbyists, public office holders, and the public about the *Lobbyists Transparency Act*.
3. Enhance the enforcement function under the *Lobbyists Transparency Act*.

These goals and the overall priorities of the office are the subject of the ORL’s ongoing public consultation, to identify strategic goals for the next three years. The ORL is accepting written

submissions as part of the public consultation at OIPCTraining@oipc.bc.ca until June 30. For more information, visit: <https://www.lobbyistsregistrar.bc.ca/news/events/>

Full report: Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists (ORL) for British Columbia Annual Report and Service Plan 2024/25: <https://www.lobbyistsregistrar.bc.ca/handlers/DocumentHandler.ashx?DocumentID=535>

Report highlights:

<https://www.lobbyistsregistrar.bc.ca/handlers/DocumentHandler.ashx?DocumentID=536>

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Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists for BC

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