

Five things you need to know about lobbying

■ Lobbying is a legitimate, democratic right

The purpose of the Lobbyist Registration Act (LRA) is to support greater transparency and accountability in the lobbying of provincial public office holders.

■ The key elements of lobbying

To communicate for payment with a public office holder in an attempt to influence specific outcomes

■ Lobbyists in BC who meet the criteria must register online

The online public registry is maintained by the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists. The public can view the registry at www.lobbyistsregistrar.bc.ca to learn who is attempting to influence government decisions, and on which issue.

■ There are 2 types of lobbyists in BC

Consultant lobbyist are individuals who, for payment, undertake to lobby on behalf of a client. In-house lobbyists are employees, officers, or directors of an organization who are paid and whose collective lobbying amounts to at least 100 hours annually.

■ The LRA is enforced by the Registrar of Lobbyists

The LRA was amended in 2010, granting Registrar Denham increased powers to enforce the requirement that all lobbyists who meet the criteria register. Under the LRA, the Registrar has the responsibility to report non-compliance and can issue administrative penalties of up to \$25,000 .