

COMMISSIONER OF LOBBYISTS

ACTIVITY PLAN

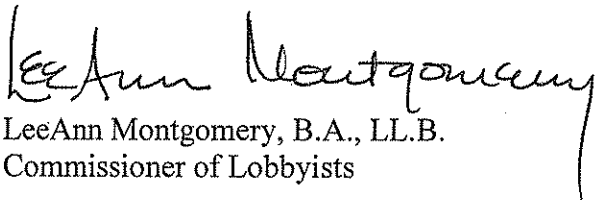
FOR 2007-2008

Message from the Commissioner:

I am pleased to present the Activity Plan for the Commissioner of Lobbyists which outlines the goals for the 2007/2008 fiscal year. This is a one-year transition plan, with a three-year plan for 2008-2011 to follow. This plan was prepared under my direction and in accordance with the provisions of the *Transparency and Accountability Act*.

The Commissioner of Lobbyists is classified as a Category 3 Government Entity and, as such, must prepare an activity plan taking into consideration the strategic directions of the Minister of Justice. I have taken those strategic directions into account and have determined that none are applicable at this time.

As Commissioner of Lobbyists, I am accountable for the preparation of this plan and the achievement of its goals and objectives.


LeeAnn Montgomery, B.A., LL.B.
Commissioner of Lobbyists

Introduction

As part of its commitment to enhanced transparency and accountability, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador passed the *Lobbyist Registration Act* in December 2004. The *Act* was proclaimed on October 11, 2005 and the first Commissioner of Lobbyists, LeeAnn Montgomery, was appointed. In addition, a Registry of Lobbyists, supervised by a Deputy Registrar, was established within the Department of Government Services.

The *Lobbyist Registration Act* also provided for the creation of a Code of Conduct for lobbyists. The Code was published in the Gazette on October 7, 2005 and is made available to all lobbyists who register in accordance with the Act.

The Code may be viewed on the world-wide web at
<http://www.gs.gov.nl.ca/misc/data/gazette/wk/2005-10-07.pdf>

Plan at a Glance

Vision: An environment where lobbying of government entities takes place in an open and transparent manner.

Mission: The Commission of Lobbyists, as a category 3 government entity, has the options of adopting the Department of Justice mission indicating how it contributes to that mission, or developing its own mission. The Commission acts as an arm's length entity and it is not appropriate to adopt the Mission Statement of the Department of Justice. The Departmental Mission is focused on the work of the Department and the Commission does not have a direct role at this time.

Given this, the intent of the mandate, and because this transition plan is for a one-year period, development of a mission with measures and indicators would be redundant of the objectives which are already developed in the current activity plan. At the time of developing a multiyear plan (2008-2011), the Commission will give further consideration to developing its own mission statement.

Goal 1: By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Commissioner of Lobbyists will have better informed the public about the *Lobbyist Registration Act* and the role of the Commissioner of Lobbyists.

Goal 2: By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Commissioner of Lobbyists will have created an Administrative Review Policy.

Overview

The Office of the Commissioner of Lobbyists is located at Suite E160 Bally Rou Place in the City of St. John's. Administrative support is shared between the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Public Complaints Commission (RNC PCC) and the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbyists and is provided by a Manager – (RNC PCC), and a Secretary.

There are 83 lobbyists registered. Of these, 26 are now inactive or terminated. The remaining 47 active lobbyists comprise 17 consultants and 30 organizations with in-house lobbyists. In all, there are 137 individuals lobbying the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Deputy Registrar and the Registry of Lobbyists are located at the Confederation Building, East Block, Ground Floor, St. John's.

The Registry of Lobbyists is available for free viewing on the world-wide web at <https://cado.eservices.gov.nl.ca/Lobbyist/Menu.aspx>

Mandate

The mandate of the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbyists is contained in the *Lobbyist Registration Act, Chapter L-24.1, SNL 2004*. The Commissioner of Lobbyists is responsible for investigating alleged violations of the *Act* or the Code of Conduct, denying or cancelling a lobbyist's registration where the *Act* or Code have been breached, and ordering, upon application, that some or all registration information be kept confidential. The Commissioner may also recommend changes to the Code of Conduct.

Values

- Accessibility: The Office of the Commissioner of Lobbyists and the Registry of Lobbyists are available to the citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador through regular channels of communication.
- Accountability: Each person is responsible to ensure the provisions of the *Act* and the Code are upheld.
- Impartiality and fairness: The Commissioner adjudicates complaints of breaches of the *Act* or Code in a fair and impartial manner.
- Independence: The Commissioner ensures the independence of the Office is maintained.

Who We Serve

The Office of the Commissioner of Lobbyists serves the citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador by providing an accessible Registry of Lobbyists and a mechanism to ensure that lobbyists act within the confines of the *Lobbyists Registration Act* and the Lobbyists' Code of Conduct.

The office also serves individual and corporate lobbyists by providing information and direction to ensure compliance with the *Act* and the Code.

Vision

An environment where lobbying of government entities can take place in an open and transparent manner.

Mission

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Issues

In consideration of Government's strategic directions and those of the Department of Justice, the following areas have been identified as the key priorities of the Commissioner of Lobbyists for the next year. As this is an activity plan for one year, the goals and objectives have an annual focus.

Goals, Objectives and Measures:

Issue 1: Public Knowledge

The initial publicity efforts surrounding the proclamation of the *Act* in October 2005 were accompanied by information sessions held in St. John's and Corner Brook. These sessions served to answer questions concerning who is required to register as a lobbyist. Given that there is turnover in those who engage in lobbying and the nature of issues on

which to lobby is ever changing there is a need to ensure that information on the *Act* and Code are communicated regularly to the public.

Goal 1: By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008 the Commissioner of Lobbyists will have conducted regional information sessions for the public about the *Lobbyists Registration Act* and the role of the Commissioner of Lobbyists.

Measure: Information sessions

Indicators: Number and location of information sessions
Number in attendance at information sessions

Issue 2: Administrative Review Process

Prior to initiating a formal investigation, the Commissioner of Lobbyists assembles all relevant factual evidence for analysis and to determine whether there are reasonable grounds to proceed. This process is known as an Administrative Review.

Goal 2: By the end of fiscal year 2007/2008, the Commissioner of Lobbyists will have created an Administrative Review Procedure

Measure: Procedure document

Indicators: Research existing provincial and Canadian legislation
Author Administrative Review Procedure