



ommissioner of Lobbyists

Activity Plan 2017-20

Message from the Commissioner

I am pleased to present the Activity Plan for the Commissioner of Lobbyists which outlines the objectives for the 2017-20 fiscal years. 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 Provincial Government as communicated by the Minister of Justice and Public Safety. I have taken those strategic directions into account.

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



LEEANN MONTGOMERY
Commissioner of Lobbyists

Overview

The Office of the Commissioner of Lobbyists is located at 689 Topsail Road, St. John's. Administrative support is shared among the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Public Complaints Commission (RNCPC), the Criminal Code Mental Disorder Review Board (CCMDRB) and the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbyists and is provided by a manager (RNCPC) and a secretary.

The Registry of Lobbyists is maintained by the Director of Commercial Registrations, Service NL. This office is located at 59 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, and the Registry of Lobbyists is available at <https://cado.eservices.gov.nl.ca/Lobbyist/Menu.aspx>. During the 2016-17 fiscal year, there were 90 active lobbyist registrations. Of these, 32 were consultant lobbyists and 58 were organizations with in-house lobbyists.

A "consultant" lobbyist is one who, for remuneration or other gain, reward or benefit, undertakes to lobby on behalf of a client. A consultant lobbyist is not an employee of the client or organization, whereas an "in-house" lobbyist is employed by the organization to lobby on its behalf.

An "in-house" lobbyist is defined by section 6(1)(b) of the *Lobbyist Registration Act*, which states: *"in-house lobbyist" means a person who is employed by an organization: (i) 20% of whose duties as an employee, as assessed in a 3-month period, are to lobby on behalf of that organization; or (ii) a part of whose duties as an employee is to lobby on behalf of that organization if the employee's duties to lobby together with the duties of other employees to lobby would constitute 20% of time at work of one full-time employee, assessed in a 3 month period, were those duties to lobby to be performed by only one employee."*

Who We Are

Commissioner of Lobbyists:

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Issues

Issue 1: Investigating Alleged Violations of the Act or Code of Conduct

The Commissioner of Lobbyists is responsible for investigating alleged violations of the *Lobbyist Registration Act* or the Code of Conduct. Subsection 27(1) of the *Act* states: “Where the commissioner believes, on reasonable grounds, that a provision of this Act or of the Code of Conduct has been violated, he or she may investigate that violation and where the commissioner believes there is sufficient reason to proceed, may conduct an inquiry into that violation.”

The focus of the Commissioner of Lobbyists is consistent over three years of the plan. The objective and associated measure and indicators will be utilized for the 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 fiscal years. Each year, the Commissioner of Lobbyists will report on this objective in its annual report.

Objective: Each year, the Commissioner of Lobbyists will have addressed all alleged violations of the *Lobbyist Registration Act* or Code of Conduct.

Indicators: All alleged violations investigated
Reports prepared for each alleged violation

Issue 2: Confidentiality Orders

Pursuant to section 18(1) of the *Lobbyist Registration Act*, a lobbyist may request the Commissioner of Lobbyists to issue a confidentiality order. This is done when the lobbyist feels that the disclosure of some or all of the information contained in the registration may seriously prejudice his or her economic or financial interest or enterprise.

In smaller jurisdictions like Newfoundland and Labrador, it is not uncommon to receive no formal requests for Confidentiality Orders. However, this does not diminish the important function the office serves.

The focus of the Commissioner of Lobbyists is consistent over three years of the plan. The objective and associated measure and indicators will be utilized for the 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 fiscal years. Each year, the Commissioner of Lobbyists will report on this objective in its annual report.

Objective: By March 31, 2018, the Commissioner of Lobbyists will have addressed all requests for Confidentiality Orders.

Indicators: Investigations conducted for each request
Decisions rendered for each request

To Reach Us

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