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Consumer and  
Corporate Affairs Canada

Consommation  
et Corporations Canada

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AN INTRODUCTION  
TO THE  
LOBBYISTS  
REGISTRATION ACT

Canada

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## **BACKGROUND**

In 1988, after considering the unanimous recommendations of an all-party parliamentary committee, Parliament enacted the *Lobbyists Registration Act*.

Two principles serve as the foundation of the Act. The first is that lobbying is a legitimate activity that helps public officials become aware of the views and concerns of individuals and organizations. The second is that the decision-making process is best served if there is no mystery surrounding the identity of paid lobbyists and their clients.

The Act comes into force on September 30, 1989.

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## **HOW TO REGISTER**

The Registry is a two-tiered system with different reporting requirements for each tier. Tier I lobbyists are professional, third-party paid lobbyists who often represent more than one client at a time. Those who fall into this category must register within 10 days after commencing their lobbying activities.

Tier II lobbyists are employees whose jobs involve a significant amount of lobbying for their employer. They must register within two months of the Act

coming into force on September 30, 1989, or within two months of taking on their lobbying activities; thereafter, registration is required once a year.

Registration is straightforward and simple. It requires lobbyists in either category to fill out a form and send it to the Registrar of Lobbyists. Failure to comply with the law could result in a fine of up to \$100 000, up to two years in prison, or a combination of both.

Forms and more information are available from:

Registrar, Registry of Lobbyists  
Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada  
Place du Portage, Phase II, 4th Floor  
165 Hôtel-de-Ville  
Hull, Quebec  
Canada  
K1A 0C9  
Telephone: (819) 953-7144

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## **ROLE OF FEDERAL PUBLIC OFFICE HOLDERS**

The *Lobbyists Registration Act* does not require public office holders (i.e. federal employees, MPs, Senators, Ministers, or their staffs) to ask a lobbyist if he or she is registered, to refrain from contact with unregistered lobbyists, or to otherwise "police" the legislation. Public office holders who want to know if an individual is



registered as a lobbyist, on whose behalf the lobbyist is acting, or any other information contained in the Registry of Lobbyists may call the Lobbyists Registration Branch.

**It is the responsibility of the lobbyist to determine if registration is necessary and to comply with the law.**

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## **USING THE LOBBYISTS REGISTRY**

Information filed by lobbyists is entered into the official Registry of Lobbyists, which is maintained by the Registrar in the Lobbyists Registration Branch of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada. The information is maintained on a computer database, but copies of the registration forms submitted by lobbyists are also available.

### **Registry information on Tier I lobbyists**

The Registry contains the following information on registered Tier I lobbyists:

- name, title, business address, and telephone number of the lobbyist;
- name of the firm for which the lobbyist works;
- name, address, and telephone number of the lobbyist's client;
- if the client is a corporation, information on the parent corporation and any subsidiaries (where applicable);

- identification of the subject-matter of lobbying. (The Tier I registration form lists general subject-matter categories.)

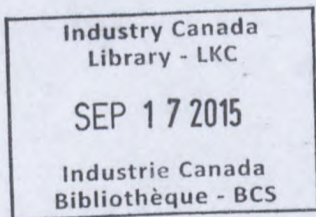
## **Registry information on Tier II lobbyists**

The Registry contains the following information on registered Tier II lobbyists:

- name, title, and telephone number of the lobbyist;
- name, address, and telephone number of the lobbyist's employer.

## **Access to Registry information**

The Registry is accessible as a public record. All the information filed by a lobbyist is available for inspection, free of charge, at the Lobbyists Registration Branch. In addition, for a nominal fee, any person can obtain copies of documents filed with the Registrar and use the computer facilities of the Lobbyists Registration Branch to conduct searches of the computer database.



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