



# Lobbying, Transparency and Ethics at the City of Toronto

June 18, 2014

Linda L. Gehrke, Lobbyist Registrar  
City of Toronto



# Our Mission

The mission of the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar is to promote and enhance the transparency and integrity of City government decision-making by:

- Providing an online, searchable lobbyist registry that is available to the public; and
- Ensuring lobbyist conduct complies with a high standard of ethics.

# History of the OLR

Toronto Computer Leasing Inquiry, Report by Madam Justice Denise E. Bellamy, Commissioner (2005):

- “The City should treat lobbying as a potentially helpful practice that should be carefully controlled.”
- “The City should establish and maintain a lobbyist registry.”

# Legislation

- *City of Toronto Act, 2006*
- Chapter 140, Toronto Municipal Code – the Lobbying By-law
- Chapter 3, Toronto Municipal Code – Policy Framework for Toronto’s Accountability Officers

# Guiding Principles in the Lobbying By-law

- The City government's duty to make decisions in the public interest should not be impeded;
- Open and unfettered access to City government is a vital aspect of local democracy; and
- Public office holders and the public should be able to know who is attempting to influence City government.

# Principles

- Public disclosure of lobbying activity and standards of conduct for lobbyists are important to the integrity of City government decision-making; and
- A system for the registration of lobbying and regulation of conduct of lobbyists should not impede access to the City government.

# Office of the Lobbyist Registrar

## Lobbyist Registrar

- Part of City's accountability regime
- Appointed by and reports to City Council
- Performs duties in an independent manner

## Office of the Lobbyist Registrar (OLR)

- Maintains the lobbyist registry
- Regulates lobbyists' conduct
- Provides advice, interpretation
- Investigates complaints of violations
- Enforces the Lobbying By-law

# Obligations of Lobbyist

Lobbyists must:

- Register before lobbying
- Report lobbying activities within 3 business days
- Comply with Lobbyists' Code of Conduct

Breach of Lobbying By-law is a provincial offence



# Lobbyists' Code of Conduct

## – part of Lobbying By-law

Lobbyists must:

- Observe the highest ethical and professional standards
- Act with honesty and integrity
- Disclose identity and purpose
- Comply with City policies and by-laws
- Avoid conflicts of interest
- Maintain confidentiality
- Avoid both the deed and appearance of impropriety

# Lobbyists' Code of Conduct

Lobbyists must not:

- Lobby by gifts, entertainment, meals, trips or favours of any kind
- Lobby contrary to procurement policies
- Place a public office holder in a conflict of interest or in breach of code of conduct
- Bestow an improper benefit or use improper influence

# Resources on the OLR Website

[www.toronto.ca/lobbying/](http://www.toronto.ca/lobbying/)

- Search the Lobbyist Registry
- Interpretation Bulletins
- Procedures and Protocols
- FAQs
- Newsletters
- Reports

# How to Contact Us

- Lobbyist Registry Advisors  
Tel.: 416-338-5858  
[lobbyistregistrar@toronto.ca](mailto:lobbyistregistrar@toronto.ca)
- Linda Gehrke, Lobbyist Registrar  
Tel.: 416-338-5865  
[lgehrke@toronto.ca](mailto:lgehrke@toronto.ca)
- Stephen Littlejohn  
Inquiries and Investigations Counsel  
Tel.: 416-338-6620  
[slittle@toronto.ca](mailto:slittle@toronto.ca)