



Promoting Transparency and Integrity: Office of the Lobbyist Registrar Presentation for Board of Governors, Exhibition Place

March 24, 2016

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Mission of the OLR

The Office of the Lobbyist Registrar promotes and enhances the transparency and integrity of City government decision-making by maintaining a publicly available lobbyist registry and regulating the conduct of lobbyists.

Office of the Lobbyist Registrar

- Registrar is an independent accountability officer reporting to City Council
- Provides advice and interpretation re Lobbying By-law
- Maintains lobbyist registry
- Conducts compliance inquiries
- Enforces Lobbying By-law

Legislation

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

How is the Lobbying By-law relevant to the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place?

- The Board of Governors is a **local board (restricted definition)** and its members, staff, officers, directors and employees are **public office holders** under COTA and the Lobbying By-law.
- Lobbyists are governed by the Lobbying By-law when they communicate with a **public office holder** about a subject defined as lobbying.

How is the Lobbying By-law relevant to the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place?

- Board members and management staff are restricted from lobbying for twelve months after leaving office or employment, since they are **senior public office holders**:

s. 140-9. Restriction on former senior public office holders.

- A. Former senior public office holders shall not lobby current public office holders during the 12 months after the date he or she ceased to hold office or ceased to be employed as a senior public office holder by the City or a local board (restricted definition), or ceased to hold office as a member of the Board of Health.

Obligations of Lobbyists

Lobbyists must:

- register before lobbying a public office holder
- report lobbying within 3 business days
- comply with the Lobbyists' Code of Conduct (ARTICLE VI of the Lobbying By-law)

What is “Lobbying”?

§ 140-1. LOBBY – To communicate with a public office holder on any of the following subject matters:

- A. Development, introduction, passage, defeat, amendment or repeal of a by-law, bill or resolution on any matter, by Council, **a local board (restricted definition)**, the Board of Health, or a committee, another body or individual under delegated authority.

Note: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place is a local board (restricted definition)

What is “Lobbying”?

B. Without limiting Subsection A, the following:

- (1) Development, approval, amendment or termination of a policy, program, directive or guideline.
- (2) Procurement of goods, services or construction and awarding a contract.
- (3) Approving, approving with conditions, or denying an application for a service, grant, planning approval, permit or other licence or permission.

What is “Lobbying”?

- (4) Awarding any financial contribution, grant or other financial benefit by or on behalf of the City, **a local board (restricted definition)** or the Board of Health.
- (5) Transferring from the City, **a local board (restricted definition)** or the Board of Health any interest in or asset of any business, enterprise or institution.
- (6) Determining the model and method of delivering a service.

Who are “Lobbyists”?

- *Consultant Lobbyists*: lobby for payment on behalf of a client
- *In-house Lobbyists*: employees and paid officers of an individual, corporation, organization or partnership; sole proprietors; partners in a business
- *Voluntary Unpaid Lobbyists*: lobby on behalf of a for-profit entity or organization

Who is exempt from the Lobbying By-law?

INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING WHEN ACTING IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY:

- Officials of other levels of government, other governments and public sector organizations
- **Public office holders of the City** – includes Board of Governors members and staff when acting in their official capacity
- Listed municipal level corporations and other bodies
- Listed employee and labour groups communicating about labour relations
- Not-for-profit community organizations and other defined not for profit organizations

Exempt Communications

Public Processes

- Meetings of Council, **local boards (restricted definition)**, the Board of Health or their committees
- Public meetings, hearings, consultations, presentations or events held or sponsored by the City, **a local board (restricted definition)**, Board of Health or a **public office holder**

Exempt Communications

- Request for information
- Direct response to a written request by a public office holder
- Compliment or complaint about a service or program
- Communication about enforcement, interpretation or application of an Act or by-law; implementation or administration of a policy, program, directive or guideline

Exempt Communications

- Communication about a personal matter that does not fall within the definition of “lobbying” and is not for special benefit of the individual or organization
- Casual communication at a public gathering that does not materially advance a lobbying matter

Lobbyists' Code of Conduct

Lobbyists must:

- observe the highest ethical and professional standards
- comply with the Code of Conduct
- act with honesty and integrity
- disclose their identity and purpose
- inform their clients and employers of the obligations under the by-law

Lobbyists' Code of Conduct

Lobbyists must not:

- lobby by gifts, entertainment, meals, trips or favours of any kind
- communicate about a procurement or application except as permitted
- 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 on a public office holder

Resources on the OLR Public Website

www.toronto.ca/lobbying/

- Search the Lobbyist Registry
- Lobbying By-law
- Interpretation Bulletins
- FAQs
- Reports to Council

How to Contact Us

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