

## Memo to All Staff

### Changes to BC Lobbying Regulations Effective May 4, 2020

#### Changes to Regulations

- The BC government published the [new Lobbyists Transparency Regulations](#) on November 25, 2019. The new Lobbyists Registry will be similar to the federal system.
- The regulations will come into force on **May 4, 2020**. At that time, the title of the current statute will change from the *Lobbyists Registration Act* to the ***Lobbyists Transparency Act, or LTA***.
- **First report due June 15, 2020** (for May activities)
- Much of the information in your existing registrations will be carried over into the new Lobbyists Registry. The current Registry will be taken offline on April 30, 2020, and the new Lobbyists Registry will be activated on May 4, 2020.

#### Summary of Major Changes

- There is no longer a 100-hour threshold for registration of lobbying in British Columbia; therefore all lobbying must be reported.
- Given the similarity to federal reporting requirements, we will implement a single system to collect information on all lobbying across TCI and TCF.
- As with the federal regulations, monthly activity reports are required to be completed by the 15th of each month containing details of actual lobbying activities in the previous month.
- New regulations significantly restrict **gifts to public office holders**:
  - Prohibition on giving or promising to give, directly or indirectly, gifts to a public office holder<sup>1</sup> we are lobbying.
  - A gift to a public office holder is only acceptable if: the gift is given or promised under the protocol or social obligations that normally accompany the duties or responsibilities of office of the public office holder AND if the total value of gifts given or promised (by anyone in the organization) over any given 12-month period is less than \$100.
  - The LTA requires that **ALL gifts** given or promised to be given to ALL public office holders **must be declared, even if we are not lobbying the public office holder to whom the gift is given**.
  - **A gift is anything of value** given or promised for free or at a reduced rate.
- New regulations introduce reporting on lobbying by **coalitions**:
  - If an organization is a coalition or a member of a coalition, lobbyists must declare the name and business address of each member of the coalition in the Lobbyists Registry.
- Increased reporting on **government funding**:

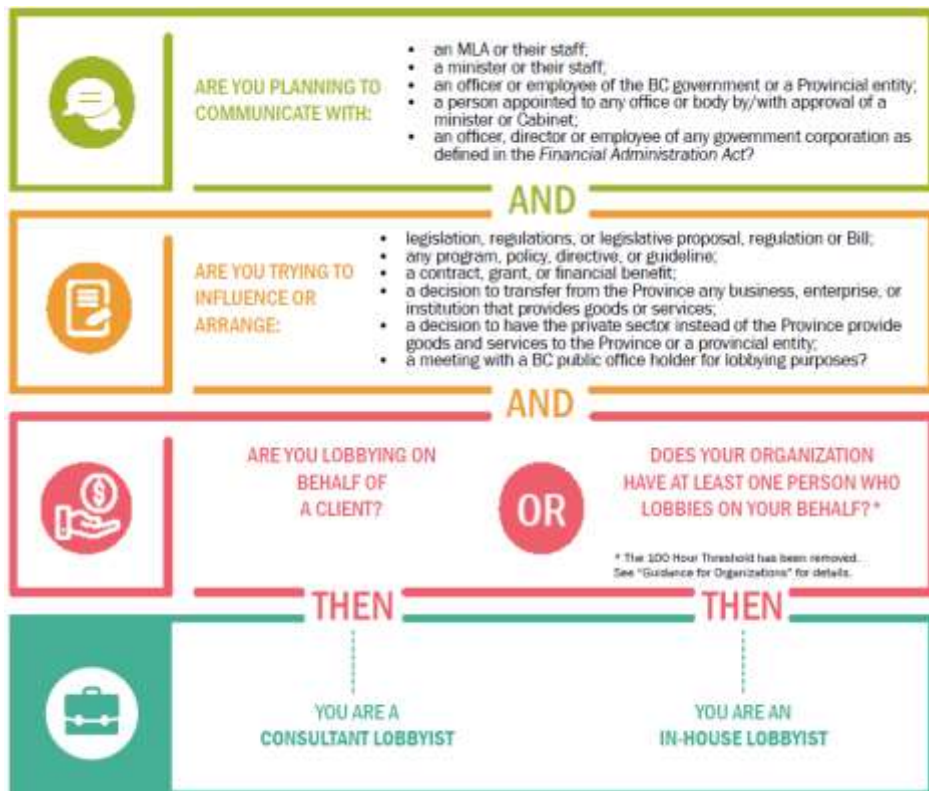
#### GIFTS MAY INCLUDE:

- meals, beverages, or other hospitality
- invitations to receptions
- money in any form (cash, cheque, bank draft, gift certificate)
- tangible gifts such as gift baskets, alcoholic beverages, flowers, chocolate, art, or jewelry
- tickets to sporting, cultural or speaking events
- box seats
- VIP passes not available to the public
- a service (spa, ski pass, transportation such as car & driver or private aircraft)
- use of property or facilities (use of a vehicle, golf facilities, hotel room, residence, or other accommodation)

<sup>1</sup> The term “public office holder” is defined in section 1(1) of the LTA and includes MLAs and MLAs’ political staff members; cabinet ministers and cabinet ministers’ political staff members; government employees, including deputy ministers and everyone in a ministry under the level of deputy minister; an officer, director or employee of any government corporation as defined in the Financial Administration Act; and a person appointed to any office or body by or with approval of a minister or cabinet.

- Government grants and non-repayable contributions or funding arrangements are included in Government funding.
- Funding from all levels of government (municipal, provincial, and federal) must be reported
- Fee-for-service funding is not reportable
- When the regulations come into effect, we must report sources of funding for lobbying received in the last 12 months
- A "cooling off period" bans former public office holders and their senior staff from lobbying government for two years after leaving their government position.

## Are You A Lobbyist?



## Want to Learn More?

Detailed guidance specific to Tides Canada will be shared in March and April, accompanied by training. In the meantime, the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists (ORL) has released several guidance documents:

- [ORL Guidance](#)
- [Timing is everything: Transition Rules for LTA](#)
- [Are you lobbying?](#)
- [Guidance for Organizations](#)
- [Government Funding Guidance](#)
- [Provincial Entities](#)
- [Guide to Lobbyist Gifts](#)
- [Exemption Guidance](#)
- [Codes of Conduct Guidance](#)