



Lobbying Act Implementation Notice #1

Coming-into-Force of the Lobbying Act (2008)

Date: February 1, 2009

Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying

On July 2, 2008 the position of Registrar of Lobbyists was abolished and a new position, that of Commissioner of Lobbying, was established as an independent Agent of Parliament. The Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists was replaced by the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying.

- Staff of the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists have remained in place as employees of the new Office. They continue to be public servants appointed under the *Public Service Employment Act*.
- The internet address of the Office is now www.ocl-cal.gc.ca.
- The mailing address of the Office remains the same, with the exception of the title of the office. Mail addressed to the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists will be redirected to the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying.

The Lobbyists Registration System

The Lobbyists Registration System and the Registry of Lobbyists have been redesigned to meet the requirements of the *Lobbying Act*. Enhancements have also been made to improve ease of use and to increase transparency for lobbyists, those who search the Registry and for staff of the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying (see Implementation Notice #8 – the Lobbyists Registration System Version 5.0).

Guides to Registration and online video tutorials are available to assist lobbyists and others in familiarizing themselves with the new system and its new search and reporting features.

Investigations

Investigations commenced by the Registrar under the *Lobbyists Registration Act* have been continued under the *Lobbying Act* by the Commissioner of Lobbying, who has enhanced powers of investigation.

Information on implementation of the Lobbying Act

The Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying has prepared information material to assist lobbyists, their clients and public office holders to understand how the *Lobbying Act* is applied. These include:

- “*The Lobbying Act* – A Summary of New Requirements”
- *Lobbying Act* Implementation Notices to provide details on aspects of the new legislation that differ from the *Lobbyists Registration Act*.
- Revised “Guides to Registration”
- Revised “Frequently Asked Questions”
- Powerpoint presentations for lobbyists and public office holders
- An online tutorial for users of the Lobbyists Registration System

This material, along with additional information, is available at www.ocl-cal.gc.ca