

INFLUENCING BC

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REGISTRAR'S MESSAGE

May 4, 2020, will mark the coming into force of the *Lobbyists Transparency Act*, or LTA, replacing the *Lobbyists Registration Act*. Besides the name change, the LTA will also bring into effect the remaining sections of the *Lobbyists Registration Amendment Act, 2018*. We continue our work to ensure the new online Lobbyists Registry will be ready to launch on May 4, 2020.

I recognize these are extraordinary times and some organizations, or clients of consultant lobbyists, may be directing their resources to responding to the epidemic and as a result may have limited resources right now. Given the current challenges of COVID-19, and with the organizations affected in mind, I am extending the transition period for lobbyists to register from June 15 to September 15. This is an extension, so if you are utilizing this opportunity, please track all transactions from May 4 onward to ensure accurate records are submitted come September 15. That said, I encourage all lobbyists to set up their registrations as soon after May 4 as is possible. The feature article below has additional information on the Registry and some important dates to be aware of.

On April 3, I hosted a live webinar on the upcoming changes to lobbying in BC. The webinar provided information to lobbyists, organizations, and the general public on changes to the current *Lobbyists Registration Act*, the regulations, and the Lobbyists Registry. If you missed it, or were unable to attend, a recording of the webinar is posted on the [Previous Events](#) page of the ORL website. The session included a question and answer period at the end. I will be hosting second webinar April 23 with similar content to the April 3 webinar. For registration and login details, please see our [Upcoming Events](#) page.

To prepare for the new legislation, if you have not already done so, I encourage you to review the many LTA guidance documents and FAQs we have posted on our website. We continue to add to and update them as we approach May 4. We are committed to making it as easy as possible for lobbyists to understand and comply with the new Act. Please don't hesitate to contact my team at info@bcorl.ca with questions or comments.

Michael McEvoy, Registrar of Lobbyists for British Columbia

FEATURE

The new Lobbyists Registry – what to expect and how to prepare

The current Lobbyists Registry will be taken offline at noon on April 30, 2020, and the new Lobbyists Registry will be activated on May 4, 2020. May 1, 2020, we will post step-by-step User Guides on the [Using the Registry](#) section of the ORL website to help you navigate the new Lobbyists Registry.

Important dates to remember:

April 23	ORL Zoom webinar 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (PT).
April 30	Existing Lobbyists Registry goes offline at noon.
May 1	User Guides for new Lobbyists Registry posted on the ORL website.
May 4	New legislation comes into force; New Lobbyists Registry available. To avoid a system overload, we recommend filers access the new Lobbyists Registry to activate their registrations anytime between May 4 and May 14 or later if there's been no lobbying activity to report.
June 15	Designated filers who are able to should enter their Monthly Returns for May.
July 15	Designated filers who are able to should enter Monthly Returns for June.
August 15	Designated filers who are able to should enter Monthly Returns for July.
September 15	All new registrations are due. Existing filers have until September 15, 2020, to log into the new Lobbyists Registry and update active registrations. If not yet submitted, all Monthly Returns for lobbying activity between May 4, 2020, and August 31, 2020, are also due.

EXISTING LOBBYISTS REGISTRY USERS

All registrations in the Lobbyists Registry entered between 2010 and May 4, 2020, will be migrated over to the new system. To prepare, before April 30, ensure:

1. Your information in the existing Lobbyists Registry is accurate and up to date. In particular, look at your active registration(s) and check –
 - The **exact legal name** of the client or organization and any parent company has been entered.
 - The **government funding** section is accurate.
 - The **correct Designated Filer** (most senior paid officer) is entered for your organization.
2. You complete a search of the Lobbyists Registry and make a note of the **exact email address** and the **exact spelling** of the “**existing account holder**”. To activate an existing registration after May 4, you must provide the existing account holder's name and email address.

NEW LOBBYISTS REGISTRY USERS

All new users need to create an account on or after May 4. The new [User Guides](#) available on May 1 walk you through this process. Both consultant lobbyists and organizations have 10 days to file a new registration after beginning to lobby.

On or after May 4, when you go to the Lobbyists Registry you will see the log in screen below.

The screenshot shows the 'Lobbyists Registry System' login and registration interface. At the top, there is a maintenance notice: 'The Registry of Lobbyists may not be available due to maintenance between 7:00 p.m. Friday, May 1, 2020 and 12:00 p.m. Monday, May 4, 2020 (EST)'. Below this, the page is divided into two main sections: 'Sign In' and 'Register'. The 'Sign In' section includes fields for 'Username' and 'Password', a link for 'Have you forgotten your password?', and a 'Login' button. The 'Register' section provides instructions for 'Consultant Lobbyist' and 'Organizations', and includes a 'Create an Account' button. A yellow note box states: 'Note: If you had a registration in the BC Lobbyists Registry between 2010 and May 4, 2020 you can [activate your account here](#)'.

If you are an existing user and enter an incorrect name or email, the following message will appear directing you to contact our office:

The screenshot shows an error message for an existing account holder. The title is 'Existing Account Holder - Enter Email'. The message reads: 'Please check the following and try again:'. A bullet point states: 'The email you have entered cannot be matched to your name entered in the previous screen. Please contact the office by email at info@bcorl.ca or by phone at 250-387-2686 if you require assistance.' Below the message, there is a text input field for the email address, with 'info@bcorl.ca' entered and a green checkmark icon to its right. At the bottom, there are 'Cancel' and 'Submit' buttons.

RECENT NEWS

Investigation and reconsideration reports

The ORL has the authority to investigate alleged lobbyist contraventions such as failing to register, or reporting information inaccurately or late. ORL investigators review the circumstances of each case, examine the evidence, and if the contravention is substantiated, levy an administrative penalty. Previous investigation and reconsiderations reports can be viewed on our website [here](#).

Who's Lobbying Who: March 2020

Who's Lobbying Who is a monthly summary of lobbying activities that in-house lobbyists for organizations and consultant lobbyists have carried out or expect to carry out in BC. Each edition contains all new registrations submitted and activated during that particular month. View [Who's Lobbying Who](#) on the ORL website under Publications.

