



O.R.L.
office of the
registrar
of lobbyists
BRITISH COLUMBIA

**ANNUAL REPORT
2021-22**

WHO WE ARE

The Registrar of Lobbyists is an independent Officer of the Legislature who oversees, monitors, and enforces the *Lobbyists Transparency Act* (LTA). The Lobbyists Registration Amendment Act (2018) changed the name of the LRA to the LTA on May 4, 2020.

The LTA requires individuals and organizations who meet specific criteria to register their lobbying activities in an online public Registry.

The goal of the LTA is to promote transparency in lobbying and government decision-making.

Michael McEvoy, Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC, is designated as Registrar of Lobbyists for BC.

OUR MANDATE

The mandate of the Registrar of Lobbyists is to:

- promote awareness among lobbyists of registration requirements;
- promote awareness among the public of the existence of the Lobbyists Registry;
- manage registrations submitted to the Lobbyists Registry; and
- monitor and enforce compliance with the Act.

HOW WE DO OUR WORK

The Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists for British Columbia (ORL) provides a public record of who is attempting to influence government decisions. The ORL manages compliance through a number of strategies, including education and outreach to lobbyists and public office holders, verification of registration information, public reporting, and administrative penalties for non-compliance.



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August 2022


The Honourable Raj Chouhan
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Room 207, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Honourable Speaker,

In accordance with s. 9.1(1) of the *Lobbyists Transparency Act*, I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists to the Legislative Assembly.

This report covers the period from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Yours sincerely,



Michael McEvoy
*Registrar of Lobbyists for
British Columbia*

REGISTRAR'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the 2021-22 Annual Report of the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists (ORL).

The Report covers the first full year of ORL operations under the significant amendments to BC's lobbying regime proclaimed in 2020. Those changes included transitioning to a newly titled *Lobbyists Transparency Act* (LTA). Without a doubt, the amendments have made lobbying in BC more transparent.

The change requiring lobbyists to report on actual lobbying activities on a monthly basis contributes most significantly to that transparency. A total of 9,000 of these "Lobbying Activity Reports" were completed in the 2021-22 fiscal year. Health, Environment, and Economic Development and Trade were the top three subjects for lobbying in these reports, with COVID-19 a close fourth.

Any member of the public can now research a particular lobbying topic in great detail by using our Registry's new **search** function. For example, you can now search active lobbyists and registrations by type, active registrations by subject matter, Ministries and Provincial Entities by active registrations, and more.

During the last fiscal year we also witnessed a significant degree of engagement between ORL staff and lobbyists in BC in wake of the implementation of the LTA. Staff listened to feedback from lobbyists, worked hard to answer queries, published guidance documents, delivered presentations, and adjusted Registry operations where appropriate to facilitate compliance with the legislation. I commend the lobbyist community for their contributions, which help ensure we have transparent, accountable lobbying in British Columbia.

The changes to British Columbia's legislation have been viewed with great interest across the rest of Canada. I had occasion last fall to discuss the impact of the amendments with fellow regulators during a meeting of the Lobbyists Registrars and Commissioners Network (LRCN). These colleagues from across the country meet twice a year to discuss common issues and share jurisdiction updates. We were proud to host last year's event and share our experiences implementing the LTA and the new Registry. At the conference, we discussed many common issues, including the intersection of lobbying with social media and elections. We also heard



from representatives of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), who continue the efforts globally to improve transparency and integrity of democratic governments. You can read more about our activities in the following pages.

I close by expressing thanks to the extraordinary and dedicated team of ORL staff for their work during the past year covered in this report. The combination of the first full year of the amendments and working through the pandemic called on their talents as never before. All of us at the ORL are committed to working with lobbyists, the government and the public to ensure accountability and transparency in lobbying in the Province of British Columbia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'm m c e v o y', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Michael McEvoy
Registrar of Lobbyists for British Columbia

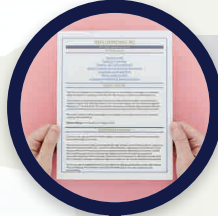
**“THE CHANGES TO
BRITISH COLUMBIA’S
LEGISLATION HAVE BEEN
VIEWED WITH GREAT
INTEREST ACROSS THE
REST OF CANADA.”**

YEAR IN REVIEW

April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022

April 2021

- 01 First day of reporting period
- 01 ORL publishes **Who's Lobbying Who** (March 2021)
- 19 ORL publishes guidance: **Getting Started-Reference Guide**
- 23 ORL staff present to the United Way Public Policy Institute



May 2021

- 01 ORL publishes **Who's Lobbying Who** (April 2021)
- 25 ORL publishes **Influencing BC** Vol 11, Issue 2

June 2021

- 01 ORL publishes **Who's Lobbying Who** (May 2021)
- 21 Registrar presents to the **Select Standing Committee on Finance & Government Services**



July 2021

- 02 ORL publishes **Who's Lobbying Who** (June 2021)

August 2021

- 03 ORL publishes **Who's Lobbying Who** (July 2021)



September 2021

- 01 ORL publishes **Who's Lobbying Who** (August 2021)
- 03 ORL publishes revised guidance: **Provincial Entities**
- 09 ORL adds new two features to Lobbying Activity Report in the Lobbyists Registry, including adding options for selecting MLAs and a coalition activity checkbox
- 09 ORL publishes revised guidance: **Coalitions**
- 22 ORL publishes 2020-21 **Annual Report**
- 28 Registrar and staff **host** virtual Lobbyists Registrars and Commissioners Network meeting
- 29



November 2021

- 01 ORL publishes **Who's Lobbying Who** (October 2021)
- 18 Registrar delivers **speech** and submits annual **budget and service plans** to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
- 22 ORL publishes **Influencing BC** Vol. 11, Issue 3



February 2022

- 01 ORL publishes **Who's Lobbying Who** (January 2022)
- 18 ORL publishes revised guidance: **Lobbyist Gifts**
- 22 Registrar's oversight commences with coming into force of **Order in Council (OIC) 0086-2022**, which amended the Lobbyists Transparency Regulation regarding three BC regulatory authorities and requirements



October 2021

- 01 ORL publishes **Who's Lobbying Who** (September 2021)
- 21 ORL publishes revised guidance: **Getting Started-Reference Guide**
- 21 ORL publishes eight revised guidance document user guides: **Account Management, Organization Registration Returns, Consultant Lobbyist Registration Returns, Monthly Returns and Lobbying Activity Reports, Accounts and Registrations from the Previous Registry, Quick Reference Guide for Consultant Lobbyists, Quick Reference Guide for Organizations, and Quick Reference Guide for Representatives.**
- 27 ORL publishes infographic: **Has the most senior paid officer in your organization changed?**

December 2021

- 01 ORL publishes **Who's Lobbying Who** (November 2021)
- 10 ORL publishes revised guidance: **Provincial Entities**
- 31 ORL publishes **Who's Lobbying Who** (December 2021)

March 2022

- 01 ORL publishes **Who's Lobbying Who** (February 2022)
- 23 Registrar and staff attend virtual Lobbyists Registrars and Commissioners Network meeting
- 28 ORL publishes **Influencing BC** Vol. 12, Issue 1
- 31 End of reporting period.



HIGHLIGHTS

Amendments to legislation clarify new rules in Lobbyists Registry

The BC Government amended the Lobbyists Transparency Regulation (OIC 0086-2022) in February 2022. The amendment prescribes persons “who have entered into an administrative agreement,” as defined by seven different acts, as being exempt from the application of the *Lobbyists Transparency Act* (LTA). Consequently, three BC regulatory authorities (Consumer Protection BC, Technical Safety BC and Vehicle Sales Authority) are no longer subject to the requirements of the LTA when engaged in activities conducted under an administrative agreement with the BC Government. Under these administrative agreements, the authorities are required to regularly consult with government and provide recommendations and advice. Prior to the amendment, they were required to report their communications with government in the Lobbyists Registry, despite acting as an extension of government’s regulatory system. When acting in the context of their administrative agreements, these authorities no longer need to report their communications with government as lobbying. See the *Influencing BC* issue from March 2022 for more information on these changes.



DOWNLOAD: <https://www.lobbyistsregistrar.bc.ca/handlers/DocumentHandler.ashx?DocumentID=434>

New guidance documents to educate users

The ORL continued to update guidance documents throughout the year with the aim of educating lobbyists and the public. In April, a new guidance document, *Getting Started - Reference Guide*, was released to answer common questions about lobbying in BC, including when and how lobbyists need to register with the Lobbyists Registry. It provided a brief overview of the legislation and explanations of the most commonly-used features of the Lobbyists Registry. In the fall, the *Coalitions* document was revised to reflect changes in the Lobbyists Registry to streamline registering coalition activities and the *Provincial Entities* document was updated to provide guidance on the term “Provincial entity” as it is used in the *Lobbyists Transparency Act*. In February, information about sponsored travel was included in the *Lobbyist Gifts* guidance document.



DOWNLOAD: <https://www.lobbyistsregistrar.bc.ca/resources/guidance-documents/>



Regulators gather to share about lobbying, legislation and reforms

The ORL hosted the virtual Lobbyists Registrar and Commissioners Network Conference (LRCN) on September 28 and 29. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to share jurisdictional developments among members on legislative reforms and lobbying issues. The meeting featured discussions on lobbying issues related to elections and social media. The lobbying regulators also met with representatives of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss their work in strengthening the principles of transparency and integrity in lobbying. A *Communiqué* was issued after the event.

Registry entries made easier for lobbyists

The ORL added new functionality to the Lobbyists Registry to improve the user experience. The new auto-complete function allows lobbyists to easily access senior public office holders from Lobbying Activity Reports previously entered, a feature that will save time for lobbyists.

If a lobbyist enters a particular senior public office holder three or more times, the Registry will provide the name and position title that had been previously entered by that lobbyist. If a senior public officer holder has been entered into a Lobbying Activity Report five or more times (by any filer), the name will be presented for auto-population. These changes are part of the ongoing refinements made to the Registry to ensure it is intuitive for everyone to use.



DOWNLOAD: <https://www.lobbyistsregistrar.bc.ca/handlers/DocumentHandler.ashx?DocumentID=425>



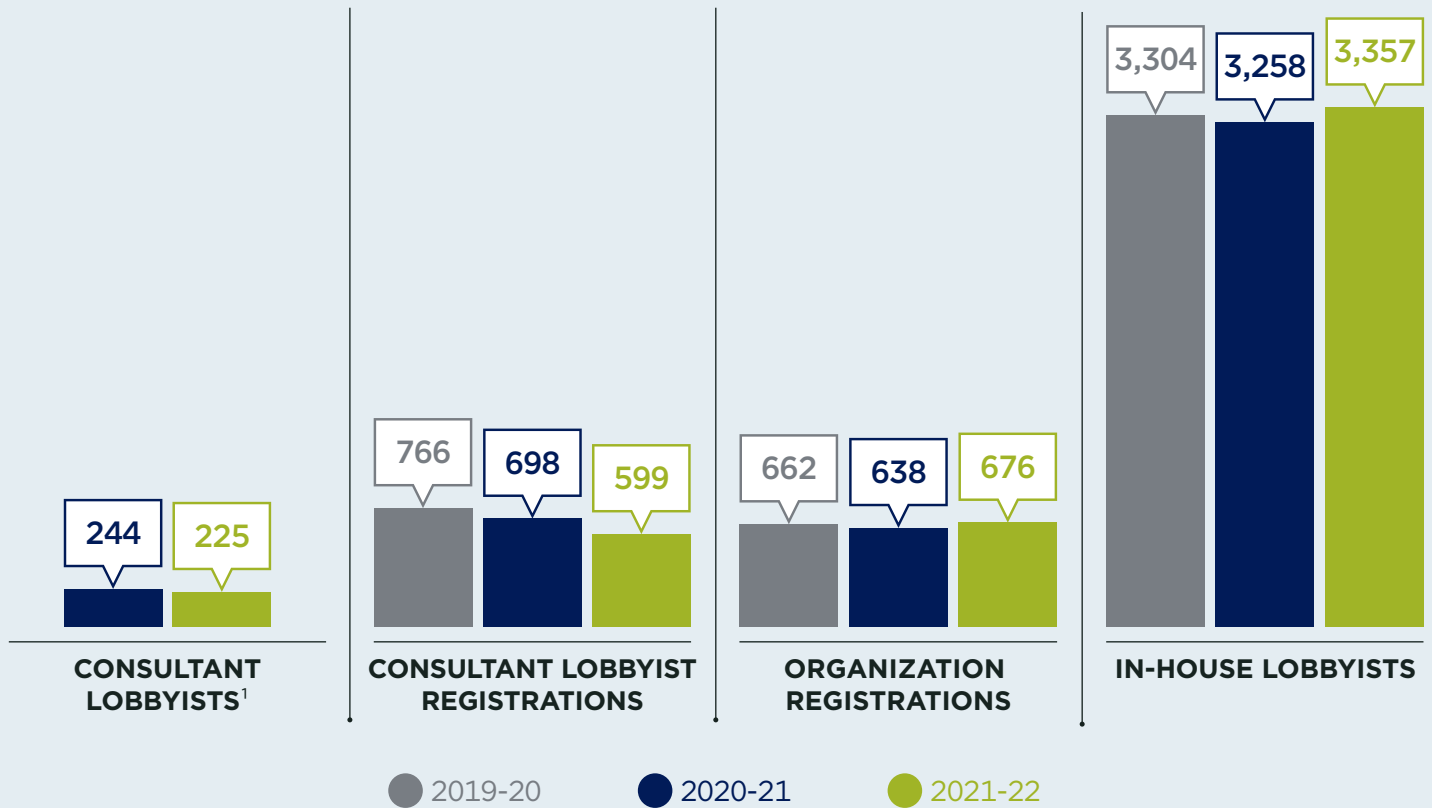
DOWNLOAD: <https://www.lobbyistsregistrar.bc.ca/app/secure/orl/lrs/do/guest>

YEAR IN NUMBERS

COMPLIANCE STATISTICS, 2021-22

COMPLIANCE REVIEWS	
Outstanding from 2020-21 fiscal year	0
New for 2021-22 fiscal year	1,568
Total reviews:	1,524
Information confirmed correct	26
Corrections required	676
Refuse to investigate (Warning email sent as matter minor or trivial)	815
Led to investigation	7
INVESTIGATIONS	
Outstanding from 2020-21 fiscal year	0
New for 2021-22 fiscal year	7
Total investigations:	7
Cease to investigate	0
Compliant with Act	0
Non-compliant with Act (no penalty)	0
Non-compliant with Act (administrative penalty imposed)	0
Reconsiderations	0
Ongoing at end of 2021-22 fiscal year	7
EXEMPTION DECISIONS	
New for 2021-22 fiscal	0
Ongoing at end of 2021-22	0
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION	
2021-22	2,467
LOBBYING ACTIVITY REPORTS COMPLETED	
2021-22	9,000

ACTIVE REGISTRATIONS



¹ The 2020-21 number reflects the number of consultant lobbyists registered between May 4, 2020 and March 31, 2021. The previous Lobbyists Registry system only captured the number of consultant lobbyist registrations, not the number of consultant lobbyists.

YEAR IN NUMBERS

LOBBYING TARGETS, 2021-22

IN REGISTRATION RETURNS

Member(s) of the BC Legislative Assembly	704
Finance	566
Office of the Premier	564
Health	509
Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation	484
Environment and Climate Change Strategy	437
Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation	325
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development	300
Transportation and Infrastructure	270
Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	261

IN LOBBYING ACTIVITY REPORTS

Member(s) of the BC Legislative Assembly	1,664
Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation	1,137
Office of the Premier	873
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development	743
Environment and Climate Change Strategy	689
Health	606
Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation	606
Finance	405
Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport	332
Public Safety and Solicitor General	325

TOP 10 SUBJECT MATTERS, 2021-22

IN REGISTRATION RETURNS

Health	477
Environment	433
Economic Development and Trade	394
COVID-19	392
Finances and Budgets	354
Energy	291
Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	266
Employment and Training	242
Transportation	220
Infrastructure	200

IN LOBBYING ACTIVITY REPORTS

Environment	3,212
Energy	2,385
Economic Development and Trade	2,216
Finances and Budgets	2,071
Health	2,041
Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	1,956
COVID-19	1,924
Employment and Training	1,408
Forestry	1,392
Taxation and Finance	1,169

YEAR IN NUMBERS

INTENDED OUTCOMES OF LOBBYISTS, 2021-22

TOP INTENDED OUTCOMES IN REGISTRATION RETURNS

Development, establishment, amendment or termination of any program, policy, directive or guideline of the government of British Columbia or a Provincial entity.	1,007
Development or enactment of any regulation, including the enactment of a regulation for the purposes of amending or repealing a regulation.	612
Awarding, amendment or termination of any contract, grant or financial benefit by or on behalf of the government of British Columbia or a Provincial entity	601
Development of any legislative proposal by the government of British Columbia, a Provincial entity or a member of the Legislative Assembly	514
Introduction, amendment, passage or defeat of any Bill or resolution in or before the Legislative Assembly	354
Decision by the Executive Council or a member of the Executive Council to have the private sector instead of the Crown provide goods or services to the government of British Columbia or a Provincial entity	92
Decision by the Executive Council or a member of the Executive Council to transfer from the Crown for consideration all or part of, or any interest in or asset of, any business, enterprise or institution that provides goods or services to the Crown, a Provincial entity or the public	65

TOP INTENDED OUTCOMES IN LOBBYING ACTIVITY REPORTS

Development, establishment, amendment or termination of any program, policy, directive or guideline of the government of British Columbia or a Provincial entity	7,228
Development or enactment of any regulation, including the enactment of a regulation for the purposes of amending or repealing a regulation	4,062
Development of any legislative proposal by the government of British Columbia, a Provincial entity or a member of the Legislative Assembly	3,308
Awarding, amendment or termination of any contract, grant or financial benefit by or on behalf of the government of British Columbia or a Provincial entity	2,767
Introduction, amendment, passage or defeat of any Bill or resolution in or before the Legislative Assembly.	2,507
Decision by the Executive Council or a member of the Executive Council to have the private sector instead of the Crown provide goods or services to the government of British Columbia or a Provincial entity	342
Decision by the Executive Council or a member of the Executive Council to transfer from the Crown for consideration all or part of, or any interest in or asset of, any business, enterprise or institution that provides goods or services to the Crown, a Provincial entity or the public	328


ORL FINANCIAL REPORTING

The ORL's budget is incorporated into the budget of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. As part of the approval of the annual Estimates, the Legislative Assembly votes a budget for the two offices as recommended by the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

RESOURCES

The Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists (ORL) publishes guidance documents to provide information and promote compliance. Here are the documents produced or updated in 2021-22. Check lobbyistsregistar.bc.ca for updates after March 31, 2022.

- 🔗 Coalitions
- 🔗 Getting Started-Reference Guide
- 🔗 Lobbyist Gifts
- 🔗 New Senior Officer Infographic
- 🔗 Provincial Entities
- 🔗 User Guide: Account Management
- 🔗 User Guide: Accounts and Registrations from the Previous Registry
- 🔗 User Guide: Consultant Lobbyist Registration Returns
- 🔗 User Guide: Monthly Returns and Lobbying Activity Reports
- 🔗 User Guide: Organization Registration Returns
- 🔗 User Guide: Quick Reference Guide for Consultant Lobbyists
- 🔗 User Guide: Quick Reference Guide for Organizations
- 🔗 User Guide: Quick Reference Guide for Representatives



For more information about the ORL's budget and *Public Interest Disclosure Act* (PIDA) disclosure, please see the 2021-22 OIPC Annual Report (page 33) or the Budget and Service Plan at oipc.bc.ca under "Reports."

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