

December 2, 2021

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future, c/o Committee Clerk  
3rd Floor, 9820 - 107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 1E7

Subject: Merit Contractors Association input on the *Lobbyist Act*  
Submitted via email: [AEFCommittee.Admin@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:AEFCommittee.Admin@assembly.ab.ca)

Merit Contractors Association ("**Merit**") is a not-for-profit company representing 1,400 companies and over 40,000 hardworking Albertans and their families. We welcome the invitation to provide input on Alberta's *Lobbyist Act* ("**Act**") and the opportunity to contribute to the transparency and integrity of the lobbying system in the province.

The Act is critical in ensuring lobbying activity transparency and providing lobbyists with clear guidelines to maintain compliance. The following recommendations have been prepared with those tenets in mind.

**Merit's recommendations:**

1. Funding Disclosure  
*Lobbyists Act, SA 2007, c L-20.5 Schedule 2, section 2 (l)*

The Act requires lobbying organizations to disclose "requested funding within the last 12 months and the amount of the funding requested." The format for this disclosure is challenging due to the term "within the last 12 months." This requirement is challenging because lobbyists must track the requested/received funding separately from their regular accounting reporting practices. The result is that organizations must create an independent tracking and reporting cycle, which increases the reporting burden and the risk for clerical errors.

Recommendation option 1: Alter the funding reporting requirement to allow lobbyists to report funding received within the organization's fiscal year. This adjustment will support greater consistency and reporting accuracy while maintaining transparency and accountability within the system.

Recommendation option 2: Alter the funding reporting requirement to include the month that the funding was requested/received. This adjustment will simplify the lobbyist's updates to the registry and ensure that they remove the funding that falls outside of the last 12 months.

## 2. Jurisdictional Consistency

Each jurisdiction in Canada has different lobbyist reporting requirements. These differences contribute to the complexity of the lobbyist reporting systems and, at times, can make the system difficult to navigate and maintain compliance.

Recommendation: Revise the Act to reflect greater consistency across multiple Canadian jurisdictions.

For more information on this submission, contact:

Merit Contractors Association

