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From:

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To the Legislative Assembly of Alberta's Standing Committee on Economic Future,

I write on behalf of the Lougheed House Conservation Society, a charitable non-profit registered society which oversees the Lougheed House and Beaulieu Gardens in Calgary, Alberta. Lougheed House was designated as a Provincial Historic Resource/Site in 1976 and as a National Historic Site in 1995. LHCS led the restoration of Lougheed House from 2000-2005, and continues to operate the Lougheed House Museum and preserve and maintain the Lougheed House for the public on behalf of the Province. The LHCS was incorporated as a society under the Alberta *Societies Act*, is run by a volunteer Board of Directors of 13 unpaid members, and includes 7 core paid staff positions.

In order to prioritize the operations and preservation of Lougheed House and ensure grants and Provincial funding is used towards the operations of the House itself, the LHCS relies heavily on its volunteer Board to undertake what are classified as lobbying activities under the *Lobbyists Act*. These activities include routine communications with the Province such as communicating with officials about our service agreement, the Lougheed House operations, how our operations are proceeding in support of the Province's goals and directives, and information on what is required to ensure this Provincial asset continues to operate successfully and in the public interest.

In addition to the exemption for non-profit organizations (s. 3(1)(i)), the current *Act* also exempts work undertaken by volunteers: s. 3(1)(l). This assists the LHCS to prioritize its budget, as paid staff time – paid in part by grants and Provincial funding – focuses on the operations and preservation of Lougheed House for the public, while the volunteer time can be focused on "lobbying" activities on behalf of this Provincial asset. The LHCS requests that any amendments to the *Act* continue to recognize the importance of volunteer lobbying activities in non-profits like LHCS, and continues to exclude this time from any reporting requirements. Specifically, if non-profits like LHCS are no longer exempt from the reporting requirements in the *Act*, any revisions to include the time spent by volunteers against the total hours count for lobbying activities would be counter to the purpose of the *Act*: instead of Provincial funding being used to operate this Provincial resource for the public, it will be paid to use staff to meet the administrative requirements of reporting on volunteer time. The LHCS understands that the federal *Lobbying Act* also recognizes the value of volunteer time on these activities, as only time spent by paid employees is counted towards the reporting requirements.

The LHCS appreciates the Province's commitment to transparency and accountability, but hopes that any amendments continue to recognize that small operations like the LHCS rely on volunteers to speak for it, in order to focus any money received on maintaining and operating the assets for the public. If we can

provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the LHCS at info@lougheedhouse.com, or stop by this holiday season to visit us directly.

Yours truly,



Stacy McFarlane, BComm, JD
Lougheed House Conservation Society, Director