



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

RE: *Lobbyists Act* review

Dear Standing Committee Members:

The St. Albert and District Chamber of Commerce appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the *Lobbyists Act* review.

As the voice of St. Albert and District business community since 1954, we support transparency in the legislative process—including the lobbying activity that influences that process. However, the one-size-fits-all approach to classifying chambers as lobbyists does not reflect the mandate and role of chambers as business community advocates. Furthermore, requiring chambers to register and renew their status every six months is a duplicative process, adding red tape for no concrete benefit.

Chambers are volunteer-driven, membership-based, non-profit organizations. We do not receive direct compensation for advocating legislative, regulatory, or policy changes—an important distinction from other lobbyist organizations or individuals. Chambers support shared prosperity of Albertans by advocating the priorities of the business community to government.

It is also important to note that our advocacy does not favour any one sector or organization. The policy positions we advocate for are developed based on feedback from our business community and adopted by our membership. These policy positions are publicly available on chamber websites.

Requiring chambers to report semi-annually diverts limited staff and volunteer resources from supporting their business community. In turn, this draws important resources away from supporting Alberta's economic recovery, without any clear benefit to transparency. Going forward, we encourage the committee to exempt chambers from the requirement to register as lobbyists.

Thank you for considering our recommendation. We would be happy to provide further comment at the committee's request.

Sincerely,



Curtis Crouse
2021 Volunteer Chair