

“The Lobbyists Act regulates lobbying activities in Alberta and seeks to protect the public interest by balancing access to public office holders and those who seek to influence government decisions with transparency and accountability. The Office of the Ethics Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar of Alberta administers and enforces the Alberta Lobbyists Act.”

November 27, 2021

Dear Sir/Madam:

“Our pledge to Albertans is that we will govern with integrity and be accountable and open in our business dealings,” said Premier Ed Stelmach. “The Lobbyists Act proves we are serious in that commitment and marks the first time this information will be available to all Albertans.”*

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As an Albertan, I am writing with my concerns and recommended amendments:

- Reduce the number of hours employees and directors of organizations are required to register with the Alberta Lobbyist Registry—from 100 to 50 hours annually. The amendments would also clarify that for the purpose of determining the number of annual hours spent lobbying - time preparing for communication with a public office holder and the communication itself will both count.

- An amendment to prohibit ALL gifts/monies given or promised to a public office holder being lobbied that would place the public office holder in a conflict of interest.

- Filed Lobbyist Reports from Organizations have to be submitted at a minimum of semi-annually and every 25 hours after 100 hours of lobbying has been reached.

- When there is an amendment/notice of change in the lobbyist report the amendment/change has to be highlighted and noted for the public to view easily.

- No Resolutions and/or Outcomes from previous meetings with government officials are recorded in the Lobbyist Report.

- Agendas and minutes of each meeting between the organization and government official/department that is being lobbied is available for citizens of Alberta to view.

-ALL DATES, LOCATIONS and TIMES of meetings in the Lobbyist Report need to be reported!

-ALL names are to be listed that attend meetings: example in Coal Association of Canada Lobby Record dated July 17, 2019 -

“The inaugural meeting took place on June 19, 2019 and **members of the Alberta coal sector** and the AER began working...”.

WHO are the members of the Alberta coal sector???

`-More information is required for the Public to truly understand what the Lobbyist's intentions are. It is like playing a game of trying to read between the lines when reading the Lobbyist Registry. It is NOT transparent, nor accountable to Albertans, on either the government or organization's part, by the reporting lobbyist being permitted to use vague, repetitive statements on each of their reports.

Sincerely,

Brenda L. McKenzie

*<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=22680AB406CCA-986F-9FDA-75CE6118786A0A57>