

From: webmaster@assembly.ab.ca
To: [ResourceStewardship Committee](#)
Subject: Lobbyists Act - RESPONSE October 17, 2016 1:41 PM
Date: Monday, October 17, 2016 1:41:19 PM

PART A: Submitter Contact Information

First Name: Rebecca
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City/Town: Edmonton
Registered? No

PART B:

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1. Are you currently or have you previously been a registered lobbyist in Alberta?
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No

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2. In which jurisdiction(s) elsewhere in Canada, if any, are you currently (or were previously) a registered lobbyist?
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N/A

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3. Feedback
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Issue: No Limitations on Conflict of Interest

Businesses hire lobbyists to help them gain government contracts – what restrictions apply, and does this have the possibility to negatively affect the way government decides on contracts?

Issue: Lobbying of Civil Servants

Under Section 1, lobbyists lobby “public office holders” and public office holders is a very broad term. Consider separating political entities from civil service entities to reflect their differing roles and public responsibilities. The decisions of the civil service should be guided by an interception of political goals and leadership from above, and evidence and organizational values from below, and not by direct political influences of lobbyists.

Issue: Lobby influence in granting

Either ensure that grants are done by neutral parties in a committee that cannot be lobbied, or specify the types of grants that can be lobbied on. Most grants should be distributed based on merit or pre-decided policy direction.

Positive Feedback: Restrictions on Application

Section 3(1) Currently the act does not affect all lobbying in Alberta, but only lobbying to the provincial government. Section 3(2) This act only applies to professional, paid lobbyists. These are important rules and should be kept, as they provide more specific direction and don't discourage public engagement with elected officials and the civil service.

Positive Feedback: Restrictions on contracts

Section 6 on contracting prohibitions is great, particularly 6(4.2), as it recognizes the difficulty in mitigating a

conflict of interest as a result of being paid by someone to lobby, regardless of whether or not they're technically being paid as a lobbyist while they're doing contract work.

The rest of the Act seemed quite straightforward, and I found no real feedback to give on it.

PART C: HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS REVIEW?

- Newspaper (Print)
- Newspaper (Online)
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Other