

# LOBBYIST REGISTRAR'S REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Report on an Inquiry: Lobbying in Relation to a Procurement Process for the Beneficial Use of Biosolids – Connect Consulting Solutions and Orgaworld Canada Ltd.

Date:	July 8, 2013
To:	City Council
From:	Lobbyist Registrar
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

## **SUMMARY**

This is a report by the Lobbyist Registrar on an inquiry under s. 169 of the *City of Toronto Act*, 2006 and § 140-35B of the Lobbying By-law to determine whether Connect Consulting Solutions (CCS) and officials of Orgaworld Canada Ltd. (Orgaworld) lobbied on behalf of Orgaworld in relation to a procurement process for the beneficial use of biosolids generated at Ashbridges Bay, Request for Proposal 9155-11-7185, contrary to § 140-41A of the Lobbying By-law. Section 140-41A provides:

A. Lobbyists shall not communicate in relation to a procurement process except as permitted by applicable procurement policies

The Lobbyist Registrar found that CCS consultant lobbyists and an official of Orgaworld did not lobby in relation to this procurement process. The Registrar reinstated the registrations of CCS to lobby on behalf of Orgaworld.

The Registrar also found that CCS consultant lobbyists and Orgaworld lobbied public office holders without being registered, contrary to § 140-10, which provides:

No person shall lobby a public office holder without being registered as required under Articles II, III or IV, unless otherwise exempted under this chapter.

CCS consultant lobbyists arranged meetings with councillors on behalf of Orgaworld; and both CCS consultant lobbyists and an Orgaworld official met with members of Council when they were not registered to lobby.

CCS also failed to report lobbying activities on behalf of Orgaworld when registered, contrary to § 140-17.

In addition, CCS failed to advise its client Orgaworld of its obligations under the Lobbying By-law, contravening § 140-43A, which provides:

Lobbyists shall inform their client, employer or organization of the obligations under this chapter.

In the interest of transparency, the Lobbyist Registrar asked Orgaworld and CCS to register and report their previously unreported and unregistered lobbying activities.

The Registrar cautioned the lobbyists that they must comply with the Lobbying By-law, and asked that they attend training sessions on the Lobbying By-law offered by the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar.

Orgaworld and CCS received the findings and disposition in this report, which are not disputed. Orgaworld has attended a training session, has registered and reported its lobbying activities. CCS is scheduled to attend a training session, has updated its registrations to report lobbying activities in 2011 on behalf of Orgaworld. Orgaworld has also informed the Registrar that the employee who lobbied on its behalf in 2011 is no longer with the firm in any capacity.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### The Lobbyist Registrar recommends that:

- City Council consider the attached report together with the Lobbyist Registrar's Report on an Inquiry: Lobbying in Relation to a Procurement Process for the Beneficial Use of Biosolids – Connect Consulting Solutions and Lystek International Inc.
- 2. City Council receive the attached Report on an Inquiry: Lobbying in Relation to a Procurement Process for the Beneficial Use of Biosolids Connect Consulting Solutions and Orgaworld Canada Ltd.

#### Financial Impact

This report has no financial impact.

#### **DECISION HISTORY**

The *City of Toronto Act*, 2006, s. 169 and Toronto Municipal Code, Lobbying, § 140-35B authorize the Lobbyist Registrar to conduct an inquiry about compliance with Chapter 140 of the Toronto Municipal Code, Lobbying (the Lobbying By-law). Section 3-7B of the Toronto Municipal Code and the *City of Toronto Act*, 2006, s. 169 provide that the Lobbyist Registrar reports directly to Council on investigations and inquiries conducted by her.

### CONTACT

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## **SIGNATURE**

Linda L. Gehrke
Lobbyist Registrar

## **ATTACHMENT**

Report on an Inquiry: Lobbying in Relation to a Procurement Process for the Beneficial Use of Biosolids – Connect Consulting Solutions and Orgaworld Canada Ltd.