

Generally, lobbyists, whether in-house, consultant or voluntary, must register and report their lobbying activities when communicating with public office holders about applications for services, grants, planning approvals, permits or other licences or permissions. See the definition of “LOBBY”, § 140-1, Subsection B.

The Lobbying By-law provides some exemptions that may apply depending on the circumstances.

Exempted Communications

The Lobbying By-law does not apply to communications by applicants, an interested party or their representatives with public office holders about an application for a service, grant, planning approval, permit or other licence or permission, in the following circumstances:

- (1) If the communication is restricted to providing general information on an application, including a proposed or pending application, or to inquire about the application review process; or
- (2) If the communication is with an employee of the City, a local board (restricted definition) or Board of Health for the purposes of filing an application or part of the administrative review process.

See § 140-5F.

In addition, § 140-5 provides other exemptions from the Lobbying By-law that may apply to communications about applications, services, grants, planning approvals, permits or other licenses or permissions, depending on the circumstances. These include:

- communications as part of a public process (§ 140-5A and B);
- a simple request for information (§ 140-5C);
- compliments or complaints about a service or program (§ 140-5D);
- a direct response to a written request by a public office holder (§ 140-5H)

Exempted Organizations and Individuals

The Lobbying By-law specifies organizations and individuals to whom the chapter does not apply. See §§ 140-3 and 140-4. Individuals and organizations to whom the chapter does not apply are not required to register or to report their lobbying activities.

The Lobbying By-law exempts certain not-for-profit organizations when acting in their official capacity. These organizations are not, however, exempted when they apply for grants, awards or other financial benefits outside of the established administrative review, approval or appeal processes. Not-for-profit community services sector organizations are also exempt when they apply for grants, awards or other financial benefits. See § 140-4.

In addition, § 140-3 exempts from the Lobbying By-law listed persons when acting in their official capacity including persons in government and the public sector, named school boards, City corporations and the City’s public office holders.