

## Howard R. Wilson

**Howard Wilson** is Ethics Counsellor, Government of Canada. Mr. Wilson, a career public servant, was appointed by Prime Minister Chrétien as the first Ethics Counsellor to the Government of Canada in June 1994. His responsibilities include administering the *Conflict of Interest Code for Public Office Holders* which covers the Cabinet as well as all other senior members of the executive branch. The Code sets out the standards expected of those in public life as well as the steps they must take to avoid a conflict between their public responsibilities and their private interests.

He is also responsible for the administration of the *Lobbyists Registration Act*. This requires lobbyists to publicly register their activities, providing details on their clients or employers, the purpose of their lobbying activities and which federal departments or agencies they will be lobbying. As well Mr. Wilson developed and implemented, as of March 1, 1997, the *Lobbyists' Code of Conduct*. In addition to offering advice to lobbyists on the Code's application, he has been provided with extensive investigatory powers to ensure its compliance. More recently, Mr. Wilson was Chair of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) Expert Group on Conflict of Interest which was involved in the development of the 2003 OECD Guidelines for Managing Conflict of Interest in the Public Service:  
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/13/22/2957360.pdf>

Prior to his appointment as Ethics Counsellor, Mr. Wilson spent most of his career in the Canadian Foreign Service, at home and abroad, primarily in the area of trade policy.

Details on the operations of the Office of the Ethics Counsellor, including the public registries for both conflict of interest and lobbying can be found at:  
<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/ethics>