

1. The City of Toronto has passed a by-law prohibiting corporate and trade union contributions to candidates for municipal office; therefore, only individuals may contribute. Lobbyists are permitted to make contributions in their personal capacity as individuals who are residents of Ontario, in accordance with the requirements of the *Municipal Elections Act*, and not as part of their lobbying activities as a consultant, in house or voluntary unpaid lobbyist. For more information about individual contributions, see the City's Elections website, www.toronto.ca/elections.
2. Chapter 140 of the Toronto Municipal Code (the Lobbying By-law) continues to apply when lobbying public office holders.¹ Lobbyists must register before they lobby a public office holder and they must report their lobbying activities.
3. The Lobbyists' Code of Conduct, which is part of Chapter 140, continues to apply to lobbyists in their dealings with public office holders. For example, § 140-42 prohibits lobbying in a form or manner that includes offering, providing or bestowing entertainment, gifts, meals, trips or favours of any kind; requesting public office holders to endorse or recommend lobbyists' services; and lobbying at a charitable event, community or civic event, or similar public gathering. Lobbyists must not place public office holders in a conflict of interest or in breach of their codes of conduct or standards of behaviour, and must not bestow an improper benefit or exert improper influence on a public office holder: § 140-45.
4. Members of Toronto City Council and members of City of Toronto local boards (restricted definition) are also bound by Codes of Conduct. Under these Codes of Conduct, the members are required to be familiar with the provisions of Chapter 140 and not to knowingly engage in prohibited lobbying communications. (See the Codes of Conduct on the Integrity Commissioner's web site at: <http://www.toronto.ca/integrity/integrity-protocols-policies.htm>)

¹ Public office holders include members of City Council and their staff; an officer or employee of the City; members of a local boards (restricted definition) of the City and their staff; officers, directors or employees of local boards (restricted definition) of the City; members of the Board of Health; and individuals appointed by Council, a Standing Committee or a Community Council under delegated authority, or a local board (restricted definition) to an advisory body to provide advice to Council, the Standing Committee, the Community Council or the local board (restricted definition) or to employees of the City or local board (restricted definition). See the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, s. 156 and § 140-1 "PUBLIC OFFICE HOLDER".

FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions

I am lobbying City councillors about an issue that is expected to be discussed by Council in 2010. I also want to contribute to a councillor's re-election campaign.

Q. Can I contribute to the election campaign of a councillor who is running for re-election?

A. Yes, if you are an individual living in Ontario. The City of Toronto has passed a by-law prohibiting corporate and trade union contributions; therefore, only individuals may contribute. You may contribute up to \$750 to any councillor candidate and up to \$2,500 to any mayoralty candidate. The total amount you may contribute to all candidates for office on City Council is \$5,000. In addition, you must not make this contribution as a form of lobbying about the issue to be decided by Council. See § 140-42A.

Q. Can I volunteer to work on an election campaign?

A. Yes. However, your volunteer work must not be offered as a form of lobbying. See § 140-42A.

Q. Can I contribute the admission price of a fund-raising function to the campaign?

A. Yes, if you are an individual living in Ontario and this amount will not result in you exceeding the contribution limits under the Municipal Elections Act, as noted above. However, you must not offer the admission fee as a form of lobbying. You must not lobby any public office holder at the fund-raising function. See § 140-42.

Q. What steps might a public office holder be expected to take if a lobbyist violates Chapter 140, for example by using a fund-raising function as a lobbying opportunity?

A. The Code of Conduct advises that the member of Council ought to terminate the conversation or, where appropriate draw the person's attention to the obligations imposed by Chapter 140. If the violation is significant and not made in good faith, the member must report such violation to the Lobbyist Registrar. Similar provisions apply to members of local boards (restricted definition), with additional restrictions applying to members of adjudicative boards. (See Part XIII of the Codes of Conduct for Members of Council and Members of Local Boards (Restricted Definition) and Part XV of the Code of Conduct for Members of Adjudicative Boards at: <http://www.toronto.ca/integrity/integrity-protocols-policies.htm>)

For further information, please see the websites of the Integrity Commissioner and the Lobbyist Registrar, or contact these offices as follows:

Office of the Lobbyist Registrar: www.toronto.ca/lobbying
E-mail: lobbyistregistrar@toronto.ca
Tel.: 416-338-5858
TTY: 416-338 6623

Office of the Integrity Commissioner: www.toronto.ca/integrity
E-mail: jleiper@toronto.ca
Tel.: 416-397-7770 / 416-392-3826