

**From:** [Ed Hore](#)  
**To:** [Councillor McConnell](#); [Councillor Cressy](#); [Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [Ulla Colgrass](#); [YQNA Planning Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to lobbyist registration by-law  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 27, 2016 4:37:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [image1.PNG](#)

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Dear Councillors:

I write on behalf of the York Quay Neighbourhood Association (YQNA), a residents group in the downtown waterfront, of which I am co-chair. Would the city clerk kindly provide a copy of this letter to all councillors.

As we understand it, some city councillors propose to include non-profit organizations and even neighbourhood associations such as YQNA in the lobbyist registration bylaw. This would seem to require the volunteer citizens who make up such organizations to register as lobbyists every time they communicate with their own elected city councillors or their staff. The law might even apply to community groups, sports clubs, charities and churches. As there are probably few people who are not a member of or connected in some way with some such group, the absurd result is that virtually everyone would be considered a "lobbyist".

Such amendments would require ordinary people contacting their local councillor to register, and provide their name, address, the nature of their communication and perhaps other information.

But it is surely one of the most fundamental and necessary requirements of a democracy that there be no laws obstructing citizens from contacting their elected representative, nor creating a means for such contact to be monitored by some third party. An unpaid citizen calling his or her local councillor with a concern cannot be treated as though he or she were a professional lobbyist representing some special interest. The proposed by-law change is not only pointless regulatory overkill, but offensive to the most basic principles of democracy.

It is our understand that City Council will vote on May 1, 2016 whether to direct city staff to develop this proposal. YQNA urges you to vote to kill this proposal before it goes any further.

Yours truly,

Edward Hore