

TORONTO ISLAND
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

May 2, 2016

Dear City of Toronto Councillors:

The Toronto Island Community Association (TICA) is writing to submit our concerns regarding lobbyist registration and not-for-profit organizations. We urge you to remove the inclusion of not-for-profit organizations in the following part of the lobbying bylaw proposal:

*2. City Council request the City Manager, in consultation with the Lobbyist Registrar and the City Solicitor, to review the requirements for **not-for-profits organizations** and labour unions, and Fire Services, Toronto Paramedic Services, Toronto Police Service and their associations to register, and report to Executive Committee with amendments to Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 140, Lobbying as required.*

Like so many other neighborhood residential associations in Toronto, we are a volunteer community organization that consults with, and relies on, its community members to address issues that have an impact our neighborhood and our city. As constituents represented by our local elected councillor, we have democratic opportunities, access and participation in shaping policies and practices collaboratively. This system has continued to work well as Toronto has grown and is central to building the healthy democratic city we all enjoy.

TICA is concerned that volunteer residents' associations will be burdened by unnecessary rules to register their organizations as well as each of their board members as professional lobbyists. *The City of Toronto By-law No. 150 and Municipal Code Chapter 140* already includes extensive guidance to define lobbyists and the perimeters of lobbying. These distinguish and define lobbyists from others as people who are **paid for their services** to contact politicians, staff and City government on programs, proposals and policies.

It is one of the most fundamental and necessary requirements of a democracy that there be no laws obstructing citizens from contacting their elected representatives, nor creating a means for such contact to be monitored by a third party.

Yours truly,

Susan Roy, chair
Toronto Island Residents Association Executive