



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Toronto Lobbyist Registrar

The Toronto Lobbyist Registrar's Office respectfully acknowledges that its office is located on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.



The Toronto Lobbyist Registrar's Office is committed to continually acting in support of and in solidarity with Black communities seeking freedom and reparative justice in light of the history and ongoing legacy of slavery that continues to impact Black communities in Canada. As part of this commitment, we would also like to acknowledge that not all people came to these lands as migrants and settlers. Specifically, we wish to acknowledge those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.



The Toronto Lobbyist Registrar (TLR) oversees lobbying activities to serve the public interest. As an independent office of the City of Toronto (City), the TLR reports directly to City Council (Council). Its legislative mandate includes ensuring public disclosure of lobbying activities and enforcing adherence to the Lobbyists' Code of Conduct (Code of Conduct). This disclosure requirement guarantees transparency in lobbying activities within the City. The Code of Conduct establishes high ethical standards for lobbyists in their communications with Toronto Public Office Holder(s) (POH).

Table of Contents

Registrar's Message	4
TLR Team	6
Understanding the Lobbyist Registry Process	8
2023 in Focus: Key Registry Metrics	9
Lobbyist Registrations	9
Subject Matter Registrations	9
Lobbying Communications by Lobbyist Type	10
Lobbying Communications by Type of Public Office Holder Lobbied	10
Lobbying Communications by Ward.....	11
Lobbying Communications by Divisions and Offices.....	12
Top Ten Subject Matter Categories by Number of Communications.....	13
Investigations, Inquiries and Breach Prevention.....	14
Advanced Opinions and Advice	15
Compliance Reviews	19
Inquiries & Investigations Statistics.....	20
Source of Request	20
Investigations and Inquiries	20
Outcomes of Completed Investigations	20
Outcomes of Completed Inquiries	20
Education and Outreach.....	21
Collaborative Efforts in Lobbying Regulation.....	23
Budget	24
Financial Information.....	24



Registrar's Message



Dear Esteemed Members of City Council and Respected Citizens of Toronto,

I am honored to address you for the first time as the Lobbyist Registrar (Registrar) of our great City. It is with a deep sense of responsibility and dedication that I assume this role, entrusted with upholding the integrity and transparency of our governmental processes. My term commenced in September of 2023, and I am committed to serving our community with diligence and fairness.

As the fourth individual to hold this esteemed position, I recognize the weight of the legacy before me and the expectations that accompany it. It is my commitment to build upon the foundations laid by my predecessors and to serve with unwavering dedication to the principles of accountability and public trust.

In accordance with the mandates outlined in the *City of Toronto Act*, 2006 (COTA), and Chapter 140 of the Toronto Municipal Code, Lobbying (the Lobbying By-law), it is my privilege to present to you our office's 2023 Annual Report. This report serves as a testament to our efforts in promoting transparency and ethical conduct in lobbying activities within our Municipality.

Throughout the past year, our office has diligently worked to oversee the registration and reporting requirements for lobbyists, ensuring that their interactions with POH are conducted with integrity and in the public interest. We have provided guidance to both lobbyists and POH, fostering a culture of compliance and accountability.

Moreover, we have conducted outreach initiatives to enhance awareness of lobbying regulations among stakeholders and the public. By engaging in proactive communication and educational endeavors, we aim to empower individuals and organizations to navigate the lobbying process with clarity and confidence.

In the pages of this report, you will find detailed insights into our activities, accomplishments, and challenges encountered during the past year. It is my hope that this document will serve as a catalyst for constructive dialogue and collaboration as we collectively strive to strengthen the integrity of our democratic institutions.

As we embark on this journey together, I invite your feedback, suggestions, and partnership in advancing our shared goals of transparency and good governance. Together, we can ensure that the interests of all Torontonians are represented fairly and equitably.

Thank you for your attention, support, and dedication to the betterment of our city.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Littlejohn

Why We Do It

- COTA and the Lobbying By-law mandate the regulation of lobbying activities by the City.
- The public and POH should have the ability to know who is attempting to influence City decisions.
- Ethical and transparent lobbying is essential to a responsive City, fostering civic engagement and open democratic processes.
- Regulating lobbying activities is crucial for building public trust in the City's decision-making processes.



TLR Team

The Registrar

The duties of the Registrar, outlined in COTA and Chapters 3 and 140 of the Toronto Municipal Code, include maintaining a public lobbyist registry, conducting independent and confidential inquiries, and advising on the administration and enforcement of the Lobbying By-law. The Registrar reviews compliance, investigates potential breaches, and advises Council on lobbying issues, ensuring transparency.

The Registrar prioritizes educating lobbyists on the Lobbying By-law to prevent non-compliance. Enforcement tools include suspending or revoking registrations, imposing conditions on registrations, and temporary lobbying bans. The Registrar can also prosecute breaches under the Provincial Offences Act (POA).

Dedicated to education, the Registrar provides resources and training for lobbyists and informs the public about transparent lobbying practices. Social media is used to disseminate information, raise awareness, and engage with both lobbyists and the public to enhance compliance.

Inquiries and Investigations Counsel

Inquiries and Investigations Counsel (Counsel) provides a full range of legal and investigative services in a senior role to the TLR Office, including, advocacy, advice, and the provision of services on legal matters that are consistent with the Registrar's public interest mandate. They also collaborate with the Lobbyist Registry Advisors (Advisors) to provide education and training initiatives for lobbyists, ensuring they understand and comply with lobbying regulations effectively.

Lobbyist Compliance Investigator

The Lobbyist Compliance Investigator is responsible for assisting Counsel in conducting thorough investigations into potential breaches of the Lobbying By-law. The investigator gathers evidence, conducts interviews, and analyzes data to assess compliance. They also work closely with Counsel to recommend appropriate actions, such as sanctions or enforcement measures, and contribute to the development of policies to strengthen regulatory frameworks.

TLR Team

Lobbyist Registry Advisors

The Advisors provide front-line customer service and advice to lobbyists regarding the registration process, and to public officers and the public regarding the purpose and content of the lobbyist registry. The Advisors uphold and support the public's right to access the lobbyist registry, ensure that lobbyists can register and promptly update their returns, and provide advice about compliance with the Lobbying By-law and the Code of Conduct. The Advisors participate as member of the TLR Team in providing outreach and education, making improvements to the TLR's website; and developing interpretation bulletins and other information for lobbyists, POH, and the public.

Administrative Support

The Executive Assistant to the Registrar provides executive and administrative support to the Registrar and coordinates the work of the office. They also provide administrative support and assistance to the Advisors.

The Administrative Assistant to Counsel provides administrative support to the Inquiries and Investigations Unit.

Understanding the Lobbyist Registry Process

The TLR maintains and administers a publicly accessible online registry in compliance with s. 165 of COTA. This section mandates that the city keeps a registry of individuals lobbying POH and ensures it is available for public inspection. The registry can be accessed through our website at www.toronto.ca/lobbying, and the data is also available on the City's Open Data website at www.toronto.ca/open.

According to the Lobbying By-law, lobbying involves communicating with POH on various subjects, including decisions on by-laws, policies, programs, grants, purchasing, and applications for services, permits, licenses, or other permissions. Registration as a lobbyist is required before communicating with POH on any lobbying matter. The registration process is free and can be completed online on our website.

The registration process consists of two steps: first, registering as a lobbyist, and second, registering a subject matter. To register as a lobbyist, you must select your class of lobbyist (i.e., in-house, consultant, or voluntary), create a profile, and set up an account. The next step is registering a subject matter, which is the issue or decision you intend to discuss with POH. This registration must be completed before any communication occurs. You can register multiple subject matters under one lobbyist registration, but each new topic requires a separate subject matter registration.

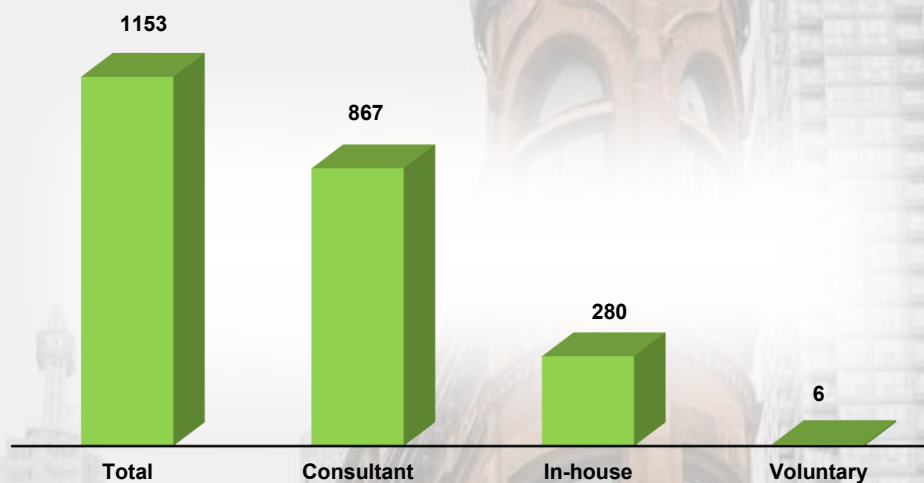
Upon completion and approval of the registrations, lobbyists receive a lobbyist registration number and a subject matter registration number. Both approvals are necessary before communicating about a subject matter with POH.

Within three business days of communicating with a public office holder about a registered subject matter, lobbyists must return to the registry system to disclose the public office holder's name, the communication methods used, and the date of communication.

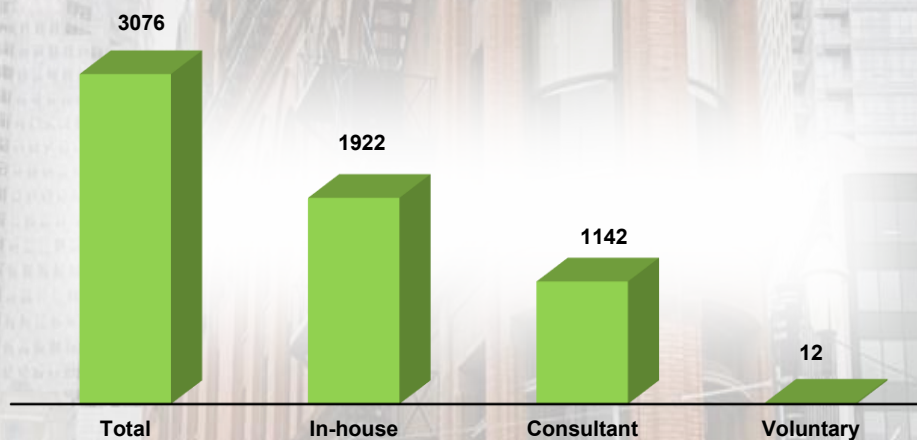
Advisors review all registrations and updates to ensure they meet the requirements of the Lobbying By-law. Once approved by an Advisor, the information is posted on the public online lobbyist registry. In 2023, the Advisors processed 2,785 lobbyist and 10,847 subject matter registration transactions.

2023 in Focus: Key Registry Metrics

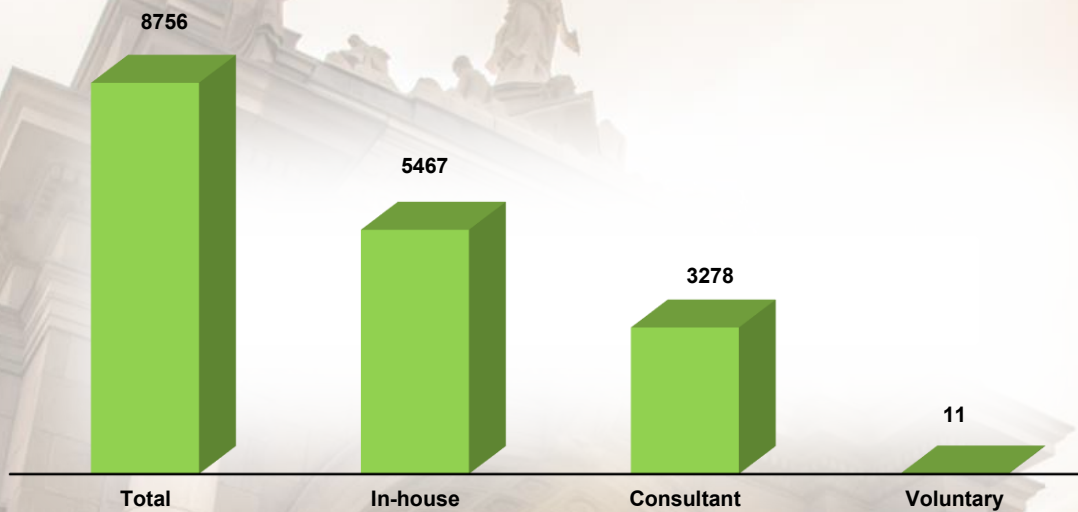
Lobbyist Registrations



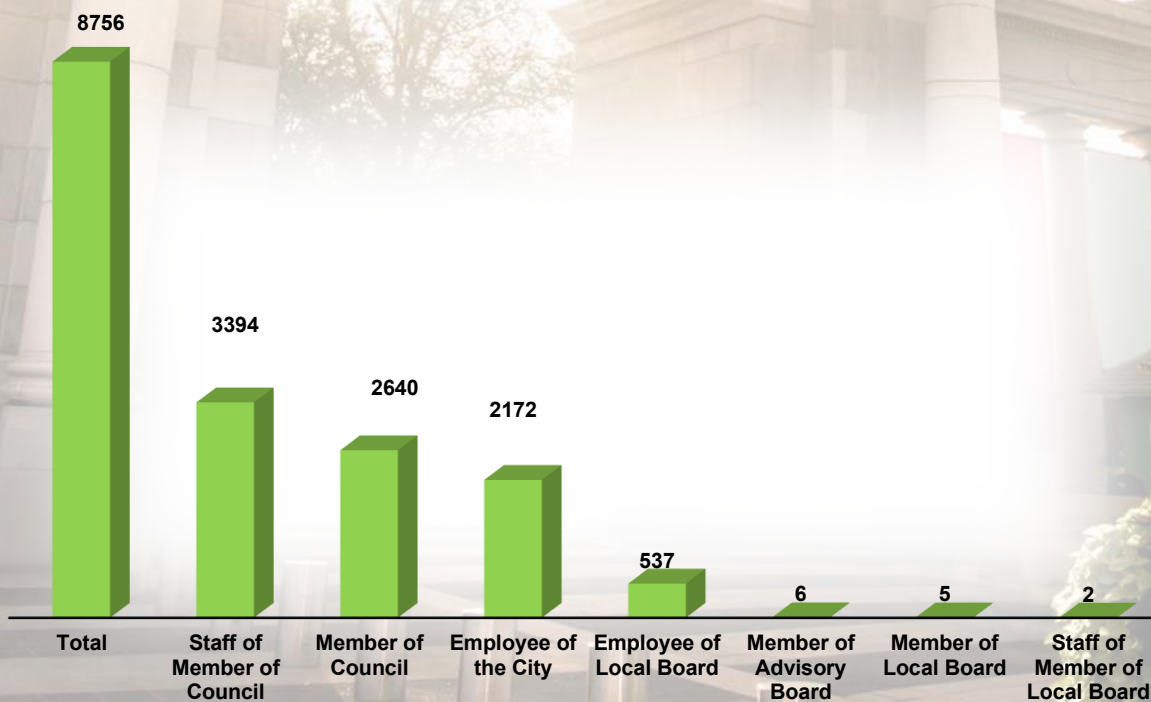
Subject Matter Registrations



Lobbying Communications by Lobbyist Type



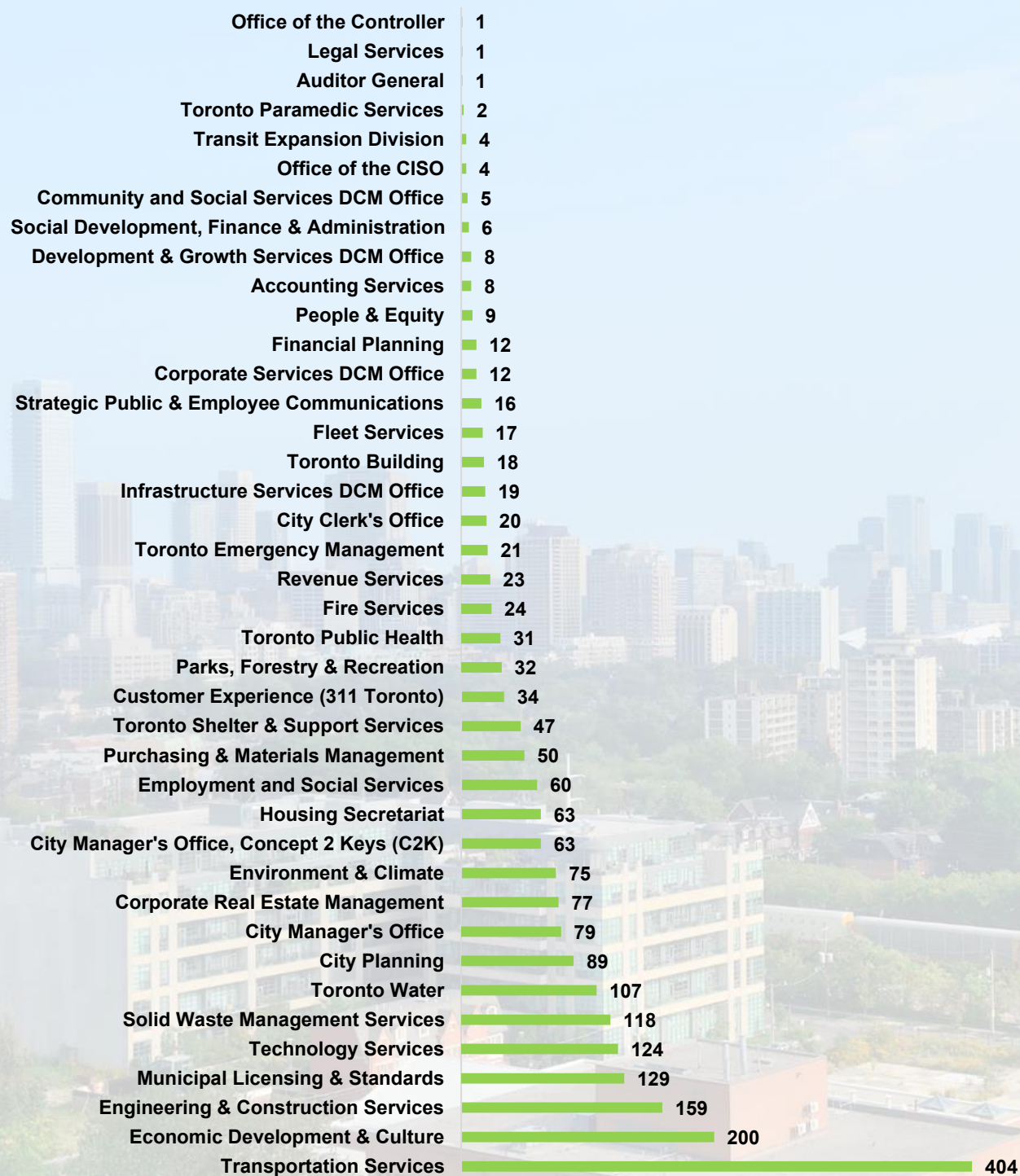
Lobbying Communications by Type of Public Office Holder Lobbied



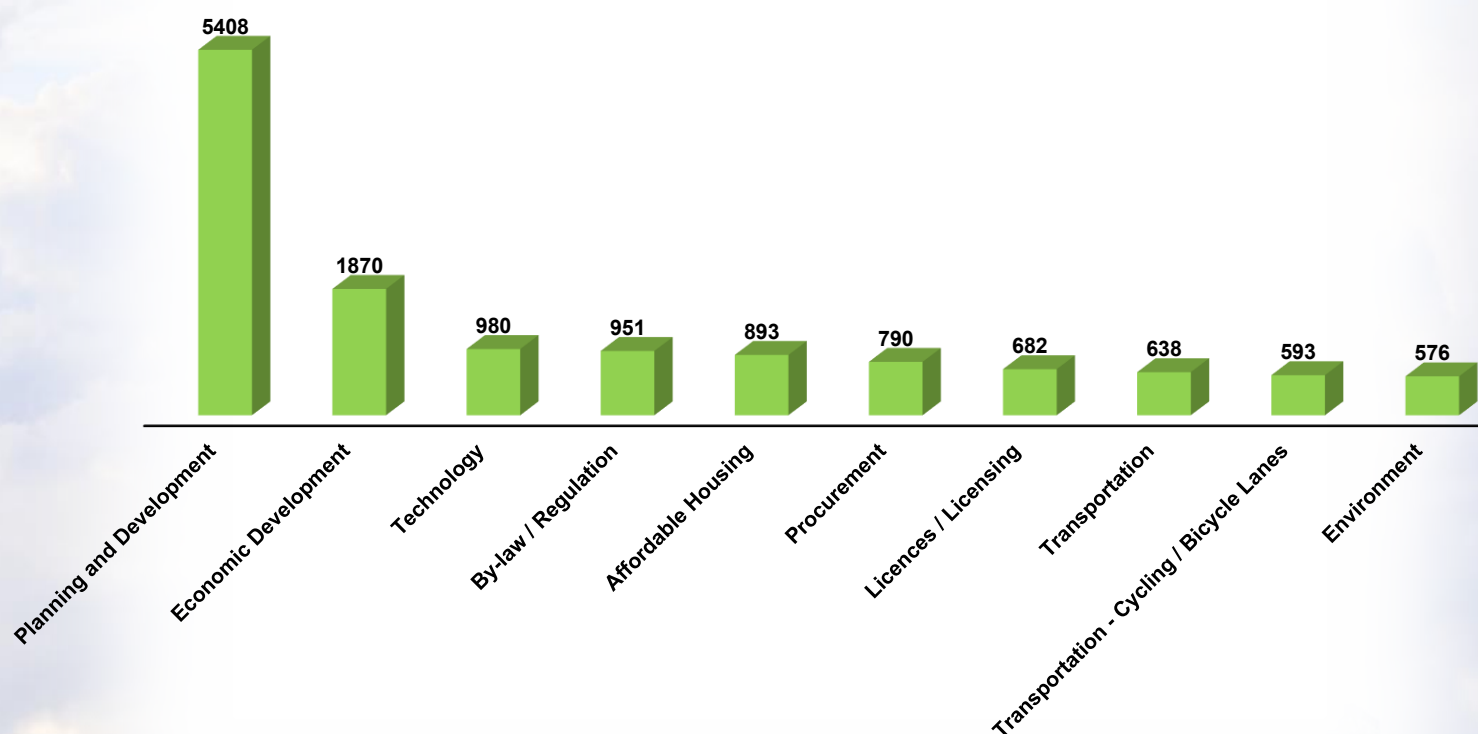
Lobbying Communications by Ward (Member of Council and Staff Member of Council)



Lobbying Communications by Divisions and Offices



Top Ten Subject Matter Categories by Number of Communications



* Each subject matter registration submitted by a lobbyist allows them to select up to three subject matter categories.

Investigations, Inquiries and Breach Prevention

The Registrar is responsible for conducting, in private, inquiries or investigations to determine if any provisions of the Lobbying By-law have been breached. Upon receiving a report of a potential violation of the Lobbying By-law, the Inquiries and Investigations Unit (Investigations Unit) first conducts an assessment to ascertain whether an inquiry is necessary. Frequently, issues can be resolved promptly at this stage. If there is sufficient evidence indicating a potential contravention, and the matter cannot be resolved informally (for example, by permitting a late registration), the Registrar may authorize a formal inquiry. The Investigations Unit conducts this inquiry in strict confidence, in accordance with the requirements of COTA. All inquiries are conducted in accordance with the [TLR Compliance Inquiries Procedures](#). If, during the inquiry, the Registrar forms the opinion that another law, such as the Criminal Code, may have been violated, the inquiry must be suspended, and the matter referred to the appropriate authorities.

An assessment or inquiry may be started because of a request from Council, a member of Council or their staff, an Accountability Officer, a member of the public, or a lobbyist. The TLR may also initiate assessments and inquiries based on information from the Registry or other sources such as the media.

The Lobbying By-law has enforcement measures to address non-compliance. The Investigations Unit investigates alleged breaches of the By-law and, when necessary, brings enforcement proceedings. Allegations are reviewed fairly and impartially, and proportionate penalties are applied in the public interest. Since 2011, the TLR has presented 27 inquiry reports to Council. These reports serve not only as general and specific deterrents but also as guidance and education for lobbyists about their obligations under the By-law.

While one of the primary goals of the Investigations Unit is to protect the public interest through inquiries, that interest is best safeguarded through the prevention of breaches. Providing guidance to lobbyists and stakeholders before they communicate with a POH helps in preventing contraventions of the By-law.

With a robust regulatory framework and a comprehensive archive of precedent cases, the TLR continues to emphasize the proactive prevention of breaches. The Investigations Unit consistently monitors the city's environment to detect potential issues, activities, or events that might lead to future violations. This proactive strategy enables timely and strategic interventions to minimize harm whenever possible.

In 2023, following John Tory's unexpected resignation as Mayor, our breach prevention strategy shifted to focus on the Mayoral By-election. This pivot specifically targeted compliance issues related to lobbying and political activities by lobbyists. The Investigations Unit adopted a comprehensive approach, conducting training sessions, updating informational and interpretive bulletins, and offering expert guidance to lobbyists on all aspects of the Mayoral By-election.

Advanced Opinions and Advice

In 2023, the Investigations Unit issued a total of fifteen (15) advance opinions and provided over three hundred and five (305) consultations and/or pieces of advice to stakeholders.

The following two samples are abbreviated, and the identities of the parties involved have been anonymized. The decisions or advice provided below are specific to these circumstances and should not be used as precedent or general advice.

1. Lobbyist Appointed to a Committee

A lobbyist appointed to a City Committee requested advice on the application of the Lobbying By-law to this scenario.

Summary of Facts

- The individual in question was the Vice President of [Company Name].
- They were a registered in-house lobbyist for [Company Name] with active registrations at the City.
- They were appointed to the Committee on [Appointment Date].
- Their appointment to the Committee ended on [End Date], but they continued to serve until re-appointed or successors are appointed.

Law and Policy

s. 140-45 B of the Lobbying By-law provides as follows:

Lobbyists shall not place public office holders in a conflict of interest or in breach of the public office holders' codes of conduct or standards of behavior.

The purpose of paragraph 140-45B is to enhance public confidence in the integrity of City government by preventing lobbyists from placing public office holders in a conflict of interest, whether real or apparent.¹

The Registrar adopted the following definition of "conflict of interest" in the Interpretation Bulletin, Lobbying and Municipal Elections at the City of Toronto January 10, 2018). This definition was reaffirmed and continued to be applicable during the 2023 Mayoral By-Election Update to the same document (April 3, 2023):

6. *A conflict of interest is any interest, relationship, association or activity that may be incompatible with the duties of the public office holder, including the duty to act in the public interest, whether real or apparent.*²

¹ Lobbyist Registrar for the City of Toronto, Report to Council on an Inquiry into Placing members of Council in an Apparent Conflict of Interest (March 23, 2015) at page 14.

² [Interpretation Bulletin of the Lobbyist Registrar, Lobbying and Municipal Elections at the City of Toronto, 2023 Mayoral By-Election Update \(April 3, 2023\)](#)

Madam Justice Bellamy wrote when considering conflict of interest in a municipal context that:

...a conflict of interest is essentially a conflict between public and private interests.

. . . The core concern in a conflict is the presumption that bias and a lack of impartial judgement will lead a decision-maker in public service to prefer his or her own personal interests over the public good. . . conflicts of interest extend to any interest, loyalty, concern, emotion, or other feature of a situation tending to make the individual's judgement less reliable than it would normally be.³

Analysis and Advice

The committee is an adjudicative board of the City, and any person appointed to this board is considered a POH defined in s.140-1 of the Lobbying By-law and s.156 of COTA.

There is nothing in the Lobbying By-law that restricts a person from being both a lobbyist and a POH. However, a POH acting as a lobbyist is bound by the requirements of the Lobbying By-law, most notably the provisions under Article VI, the Code of Conduct.

The Lobbyist was advised that as a member of the Committee, any lobbying by them or the other members of the Committee on behalf of [Company Name] or any related entities may place them in a conflict of interest and the Lobbyist in breach of the Lobbying By-law, s.140-45 B. Similarly, any lobbying by [Company Name] in-house lobbyists or [Company Name] consultant lobbyists (outside firms retained by [Company Name] to lobby) of the Lobbyist in their capacity as a committee member may place the Lobbyist in a conflict of interest and consequently them in breach of the Lobbying By-law, s.140-45 B.

Additionally, the committee is a local board (restricted definition) under COTA. Under the Lobbying By-law, appointees to a Local Board (restricted definition) are considered senior POH. The Lobbying by-law s.140-9 A prohibits former senior POH from lobbying current POH for a period of one year from the last day they held office or were employed at the City. Simply put, the Lobbyist was advised that when they left the committee, they could not lobby anyone at the City for one year from the date of their exit.

³ Toronto Computer Leasing Inquiry and Toronto External Contracts Inquiry (2005) Volume 2, Good Government at pages 38 and 39.

2. Restriction on Former Senior Public Office Holders

A former POH sought clarification on the application of the Lobbying By-law, regarding a prospective role at an institute of higher learning. The inquiry specifically pertained to the 12-month lobbying restriction imposed on former POH by s.140-9 A of the Lobbying By-law.

Summary of Facts

- The individual in question held a senior POH position and concluded their tenure in late 2022.
- The institute of higher learning operates under the authority of a provincial act.

Law and Policy

s. 140-9 A of the Lobbying By-law prohibits former POH from lobbying current POH for a period of one year from the last day of holding office with the City.

s. 140-9 provides, in part, as follows:

Former senior public office holders shall not lobby current public office holders during the 12 months after the date he or she ceased to hold office or ceased to be employed as a senior public office holder by the City or a local board (restricted definition) or ceased to hold office as a member of the Board of Health.

Analysis

The general rule requires individuals to register with the TLR before lobbying a City POH, unless exempted.

To trigger the prohibition under s.140-9 A, one must first qualify as a lobbyist. The criteria for lobbying under the Lobbying By-law are outlined as follows:

Does the communication's subject matter meet the definition of "Lobby"?

Was the communication directed to a person who qualifies as a "Public Office Holder"?

Does the individual making the communication meet the definition of "Lobbyist"?

Is there an applicable exemption for the person, organization, or communication?

All three (3) initial questions must be answered affirmatively, and the final question negatively, for the Lobbying By-law to be applicable.

For this analysis, the first three (3) questions can be set aside because the institute of higher learning qualifies for an exemption under s. 140-3 A (8) of the Lobbying By-law, which states:

s.140-3. Restriction on application (persons and organizations).

This chapter does not apply to any of the following persons when acting in their official capacity:

A. Government or public sector, other than the City.

(8) Subject to the exceptions in ss. 140-4 B, C, D and E, members of a quasi-governmental or broader public sector organization that provides services to the public, persons on the staff of the members, or officers or employees of the organization.

The exceptions in s.140-4 B, C, D and E of the Lobbying By-law read as follows:

s. 140-4. Restriction on application (not-for-profit organizations); exceptions.

- B. Subsection A does not apply to an organization referred to in Subsection B of the definition of organization in s. 140-1.
- C. Subsection A does not apply if the not-for-profit corporation or other not-for-profit organization is funded by a for-profit entity as defined in s. 140-27 to advance the financial or commercial interests of the for-profit entity.
- D. If the not-for-profit corporation or other not-for-profit organization engages a consultant lobbyist as defined in s.140-11 to act on its behalf, the consultant lobbyist is still required to comply with the requirement to file a return in Article II
- E. Subsection A does not apply if the not-for-profit corporation or other not-for-profit organization is communicating with public office holders with respect to a grant application, award or other financial benefit outside of the established administrative review, approval or appeal processes for the grant application, award or other financial benefit, and Article III must be complied with.

The exceptions in s.140-4 B and C do not apply to institutes of higher learning. The exception in s.140-4 D did not apply to the role in question, while the exception in s.140-4 E did apply to the institute of higher learning.

Advice

The former POH received advice indicating that the position they were considering is broadly exempt from the Lobbying By-law, except for communications related to grant applications, awards, or other financial benefits that fall outside established administrative review, approval, or appeal processes. Therefore, apart from this specific scenario, they were informed that registering as a lobbyist would not be required upon assuming the role at the institute of higher learning and engaging with current POH. This advice confirms compliance with the twelve-month (12) lobbying restriction under s.140-9 A of the Lobbying By-law applicable to former POH.

Compliance Reviews

The Investigations Unit conducts compliance reviews of lobbyists who fail to provide or correct information in their registrations upon request by an Advisor. These reviews are critical for maintaining the integrity of the lobbying process and ensuring transparency. They address various issues such as incorrect municipal addresses in planning matters, false reports of interactions with POH or misidentifying the POH who received the lobbying communication.

Although these errors may seem minor at first glance, they have significant implications. Inaccurate information can mislead the public, distort public records, and create a false narrative that may be perpetuated through media reports, thereby amplifying the mistakes. This undermines public trust and the transparency of governmental processes.

Section 140-43 of the Lobbying By-law mandates that lobbyists must provide accurate and factual information via the Registry. Lobbyists are required to avoid knowingly misleading anyone and must exercise due care in disseminating information to the public. This ensures that the information provided through the Registry is error-free and reliable.

When deficiencies are identified, lobbyists are given a reasonable timeframe to correct their registrations. This opportunity to rectify errors is crucial for maintaining compliance without immediately resorting to punitive measures. However, if a lobbyist fails to make the necessary corrections, the matter escalates to a formal inquiry process by the Investigations Unit.

It is worth noting that in 2023, the proactive approach of compliance reviews proved effective, as all but two (2) identified issues were resolved without necessitating a formal inquiry by the Investigations Unit. This indicates a high level of cooperation and responsiveness among lobbyists to adhere to regulatory requirements and maintain the accuracy of their submissions.

Inquiries & Investigations Statistics

Nine (9) new investigations and five (5) new inquiries were commenced in 2023.

Source of Request

Source of Request	New Investigations	New Inquiries
Members of Council or their staff	3	3
City staff	1	0
Toronto Lobbyist Registrar	4	2
Other Accountability Offices	1	0
Members of the Public	0	0

Investigations and Inquiries

Investigations and Inquiries	2023
Investigations (new)	9
(completed)	9
Inquiries (new)	5
Inquiries carried over from 2022	5
(completed)	5
(carried over to 2024)	5

Outcomes of Completed Investigations

Outcomes of the Investigations	
Inquiries Files Opened	5
Early Resolution Stream	4

Outcomes of Completed Inquiries

Outcomes of the Inquires	
Breach of the Lobbying By-law not substantiated	5

Education and Outreach

Educating POH, the public, and lobbyists about the Lobbying By-law and the Registry is one of the TLR's primary responsibilities. Encouraging adherence to the Registry and the Lobbying By-law is crucial for efficient regulation. Taking part in educational initiatives regarding the application of the Lobbying By-law promotes best practices and fosters a thriving ethical culture. To inform all our stakeholders on the implications of their actions regarding their obligations and requirements under the Lobbying By-law outreach and education are essential.

The effectiveness of the Lobbying By-law has been largely attributed to the TLR's ongoing effort on outreach. Encouraging widespread knowledge exchange is the best way to achieve transparency and Lobbying By-law compliance.

Supporting Stakeholders and Public Office Holders

The Registrar hosted twenty (20) personal one-on-one orientation meetings with new City executives and senior management employees, where best practices were reviewed for situations in which the Lobbying By-law may impact their meetings, discussions, and decisions. Information was disseminated to equip senior staff with the tools necessary to alert them to the relevancy of the Lobbying By-law in their day-to-day encounters. References, tools and TLR staff support were provided.

The Registrar also met with seven (7) exiting POH to review post-term lobbying restrictions. With support from the TLR's Investigations Unit, exiting POH were provided with valuable information regarding the statutory requirements which a former senior POH must consider when evaluating future opportunities relating to lobbying current senior POH.

The TLR also provided information and support to Councillors and their staff. In 2023, the TLR office held five (5) onboarding sessions with council members and their staff.

The Registrar conducted 6 (six) training sessions with senior level POH's in 2023. At these training sessions the Registrar introduced new and previous City senior level staff to a wide knowledge base about the Lobbying By-law, lobbying policies, and procedures.

The TLR also partnered with the Purchasing and Materials Management Division (PMMD) to attend, present, and provide information at monthly orientation sessions. These sessions were (New) Vendor Days, where new potential vendors were introduced to the City's requirements for procurement. The TLR supported these sessions by providing information about lobbying regulations as they relate to purchasing. This knowledge for vendors, especially at the outset of their interactions with the City, exemplifies the value of collaborating with POH to ensure all our stakeholders have the information they need to comply with the Lobbying By-law. Working with PMMD, TLR staff participated in twelve (12) Vendor Information Sessions on Doing Business with the City.

2023 Municipal By-Election for Mayor

To ensure effective dissemination of information, the Registrar and Counsel held consultations with key City stakeholders, including the City Manager, the City Clerk, the City Solicitor, and lobbyists. These consultations aimed to identify ways to inform lobbyists about best practices and prevent non-compliance.

In 2023, the TLR successfully implemented the following initiatives:

- Conducted a training session for lobbyists covering lobbying activity, political activity, gifts, and general compliance.
- Deployed and disseminated by-election specific interpretation bulletins related to lobbying and political activity.
- Allocated resources to provide advanced opinions and advice to lobbyists, with the goal of pre-empting incidents of non-compliance.

Collaborative Efforts in Lobbying Regulation

The TLR regularly collaborates with lobbying regulators from other jurisdictions and actively participates in Canadian and International conferences and seminars to exchange strategies for effective lobbying regulation.

1. Lobbyist Registrars and Commissioners Network (LRCN)

In 2023, the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists British Columbia hosted the annual conference of the Lobbyists Registrars and Commissioners Network (LRCN) in Victoria. The TLR Office attended this conference, along with other regulators responsible for enforcing lobbying laws, regulations, and policies at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels across Canada. In her opening remarks, Diane Sam, the Songhees Cultural Center's Community Engagement Manager and Team Leader, welcomed the delegates to the area and emphasized the importance of openness for a functioning society. Throughout the conference, members shared updates on legislative developments and discussed best practices for maintaining the integrity of public institutions. They also explored various methods used by regulators to educate lobbyists, POH, and the public about lobbying rules and transparency. Additionally, the discussion included the pros and cons of legislated thresholds that trigger the requirement for lobbyists to register their activities. Toronto, being a first toe-in-the-water jurisdiction with no such thresholds provided a unique perspective in these debates.

The next annual LRCN conference is scheduled to be held in Ottawa in the fall of 2024.

2. Canadian Bar Association (CBA)

Stephen Littlejohn is a long-time member of the Canadian Bar Association's Administrative Law Section and the Law of Lobbying and Ethics Committee. In 2023, he served as a Member-At-Large on the National Executive Committee of the CBA Administrative Law Section. Mr. Littlejohn has delivered numerous presentations to the legal community on lobbying and ethics, with a particular focus on the City's regulatory framework.

3. Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL)

From December 3rd to 6th, 2023, the TLR's Counsel participated in the 42nd Annual COGEL Conference. Joining experts from Canada, the U.S., and around the world, he exchanged information on the latest developments in lobbying regulation. Since 2008, TLR staff have regularly participated in this conference alongside international colleagues and peers in government ethics and accountability. COGEL, an international organization, unites leaders in government ethics, freedom of information, elections, lobbying, and campaign finance. Its members include governmental entities, educational institutions, and organizations such as law firms and corporations.

Budget

In accordance with the COTA and Chapter 3 of the Toronto Municipal Code, the Registrar submits the TLR Operating and Capital Budget requests directly to Budget Committee for consideration.

On [February 15, 2023](#), the Mayor's proposed 2023 Operating Budget of \$1.268 million gross and net, and 2024-2032 Capital Plan of \$1.750 million in project estimates for the TLR were deemed adopted by City Council.

Financial Information

TLR business, travel and PCard expenses are posted on the [Lobbyist Registrar's Expense Reports page](#) of the TLR website.

Each year, the TLR undergoes an external compliance audit as part of the City's annual attest audit. These audits are required under Chapter 3 of the Toronto Municipal Code to be conducted annually by independent auditors and are reported directly to Council. The external compliance audit reports for the years 2021 and 2022 were adopted by Council on [March 20 and 21, 2024](#). The independent auditor found the TLR to be compliant with the City's financial policies, procedures, and delegated authorities. The compliance audit for the year 2023 is not yet available.

Contact Us



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