

Lobbyists' Code of Conduct
under the
Lobbyist Registration Act

Introduction

This Code of Conduct is founded on the principles set out in section 3 of the *Lobbyist Registration Act*.

The purpose of this Code is to assure the public that lobbying is done ethically and with the highest standards, with a view to maintaining and enhancing public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of government decision-making. In this regard, the Code complements the registration requirements of the *Lobbyist Registration Act*.

Lobbyists are required to comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct. This Introduction states the purposes of the Code and places it in a broader context. Next comes a body of overriding principles, which set out in positive terms the goals and objectives to be attained. Then there are specific rules, which provide more detailed requirements for behaviour in certain situations.

Principles

Integrity and Honesty

Lobbyists should conduct with integrity and honesty all relations with public office holders, clients, employers, the public and other lobbyists.

Openness

Lobbyists should at all times be open and frank about their lobbying activities, while respecting confidentiality.

Professionalism

Lobbyists should observe the highest professional and ethical standards. In particular, lobbyists should conform fully not only with the letter but also with the spirit of the *Lobbyists' Code of Conduct* as well as all relevant laws, including the *Lobbyist Registration Act* and its regulations.

Rules

Transparency

1. Identity and purpose

Lobbyists shall, when making a representation to a public office holder, disclose the identity of the person or organization on whose behalf the representation is made, as well as the reasons for the representation.

2. Accurate information

Lobbyists shall provide information that is accurate and factual to public office holders. Moreover, lobbyists shall not knowingly mislead anyone and shall use proper care to avoid doing so inadvertently.

3. Disclosure of obligations

Lobbyists shall indicate to their client, employer or organization their obligations under the *Lobbyist Registration Act*, and their obligation to adhere to this Code.

Confidentiality

4. Confidential information

Lobbyists shall not divulge confidential information unless they have obtained the informed consent of their client, employer or organization, or disclosure is required by law.

5. Insider information

Lobbyists shall not use any confidential or other insider information obtained in the course of their lobbying activities to the disadvantage of their client, employer or organization.

Conflict of Interest

6. Competing interests

Lobbyists shall not represent conflicting or competing interests without the informed consent of those whose interests are involved.

7. Disclosure

Lobbyists shall advise public office holders that they have informed their clients of any actual, potential or apparent conflict of interest, and obtain the informed consent of each client concerned before proceeding or continuing with the undertaking.

8. Improper influence

Lobbyists shall not place public office holders in a conflict of interest by proposing or undertaking any action that would constitute an improper influence on a public office holder.

Commencement

This Code of Conduct comes into force on the same day the *Lobbyist Registration Act* comes into force. (October 11, 2005)