



## Calculation of 30 hour threshold for in-house lobbyists

### Interpretation

#### *The Lobbyists Act*

- s. 2(h) in-house lobbyist” means an employee, an officer or a director of an organization:
- (i) who is paid for performing his or her functions; **and**
  - (ii) whose lobbying activity or duty to lobby on behalf of the organization or an affiliate of the organization, either alone or together with other individuals in the organization or the affiliate:
    - (A) is performed or is required to be performed for at least **30** hours annually, as the case may be, as calculated in the prescribed manner; or
    - (B) otherwise prescribed criteria.

#### *The Lobbyist Regulations*

#### In-house lobbyist hours

- s. 3 For the purposes of paragraph 2(1)(h)(ii)(A) of the Act, in calculating how many hours that lobbyist activities are performed, an employee, officer or director of an organization shall include all time spent on lobbying activities, including the following time that is directly related to and necessary for carrying out lobbying:
- (a) preparation time;
  - (b) time spent communicating with public office holders;
  - (c) travel time

**Summary:** The whole purpose of the lobbyist’s legislation is to enhance the integrity and accountability of government by fostering openness and transparency about who is attempting to influence decisions made by provincial public office holders.

We know that the more information that's out there, the more people know what's going on, the more things are open, the better off we are and the more confident we can be in our institutions.

The Regulations provide that an in-house lobbyist shall include all time spent on lobbying activities including time that is related to, and necessary for carrying out lobbying. This includes preparation time such as research, writing, photocopying, time spent arranging meetings and actual meetings, in addition to travel time to and from the organizations' office where lobbying is located and the office of the public official.

Although the Registrar does not require an organization to keep track of the time spent lobbying, it is up to the organization to prove compliance should the Registrar conduct an investigation.

**Directive:**

The 30 hour calculation is cumulative. It includes the time spent by all paid employees, officers or directors of an organization either working, or having worked, on a particular lobbying file. If a paid employee, paid officer, or paid director of an organization lobbies or participates in the lobbying preparation on behalf of the organization their time must be counted towards the 30-hour threshold for the organization. It is not relevant where they are located.

The 30 hour threshold is calculated annually. As outlined in s.7(1) of *The Lobbyists Act*, the initial registration has to be filed within 60 days after the day on which **any** individual in that organization becomes an in-house lobbyist. Updates to the initial registration are required every 6 month period thereafter.

This Directive provides general information only and does not constitute legal advice. This Directive should not be relied upon as an official ruling nor be considered a substitute for contacting the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists to discuss a specific instance or request a ruling on a specific case.

**Authority:**

This Directive is issued by the Registrar of Lobbyists pursuant to section 17 of *The Lobbyists Act*.