

# BILL

No. 618

An Act to amend *The Lobbyists Act to provide increased transparency in lobbying activities*

(Assented to \_\_\_\_\_ )

WHEREAS open and free access to government decision-makers is a matter of public interest.

WHEREAS Saskatchewan people deserve transparency regarding who is attempting to influence elected officials and around what topics.

WHEREAS lobbying is a legitimate activity provided it is open and transparent.

WHEREAS Saskatchewan's lobbying regime currently fails to provide sufficient transparency around lobbying activities.

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows:

## Short title

1 *The Lobbyists Transparency Amendment Act.*

## S.S. 2014, c. L-27.01 amended

2 *The Lobbyists Act* S.S. 2014, c. L-27.01 is amended in the manner set forth in this Act.

## Section 2 is amended

3 **Section 2 is amended:**

(a) By adding the following after clause (1)(a):

“(a.1) “communicate” or “communication” means to discuss, disclosure, transfer, disseminate, or exchange information or opinion, formally or informally, directly or indirectly in any manner including, but not limited to emails, phone calls, electronic communication, remote or in person meetings or conversation”;

(b) by adding the following definition after clause (1)(e):

“(e.1) “**gift**” means a gift or fee described in subsection 7(1) of *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*”;

(c) in subclause (1)(h)(ii) by repealing paragraphs (A) and (B); and

(d) in subclause (1)(m)(v) by adding “with more than 5 employees” after the words “non-profit organization”.

**Section 4 amended****4 Section 4 is amended by striking out the following in clause (1)(i):**

“, if the lobbying activity performed by the officers, directors and employees combined is less than 30 hours annually, as calculated in the prescribed manner”.

**Section 8 amended****5 Subsection 8(1) is amended by:**

**(a) by striking out clauses (j), (k), (l), (m), (n) and (q)**

**(b) by adding the following subclause after clause (1)(r):**

“(r.1) all financial contributions to political parties, candidates, and constituency associations as defined by the Election Act, made by any organization that an in-house lobbyist is working on behalf of, or in the case of a consultant lobbyist, the client of the consultant lobbyist, made on or after the date the writ was issued for the last provincial election”.

**New Section 8.1****6 The following section is added after section 8:****“Requirement to file monthly lobbying activity logs**

**(8.1)** Any registered lobbyist having conducted lobbying activities in the previous month shall file a monthly activity log no later than 15 days after the end of every month. Each activity log must contain the following:

- (a) the name and position of the public office holder who was the object of the lobbying activity;
- (b) the names of the lobbyist who participated in the lobbying activity;
- (c) the names of all individuals present for the lobbying activities;
- (d) the date of the lobbying activity;
- (e) particulars to identify the subject matter of the lobbying activity;
- (f) particulars to identify any relevant legislative proposal, Bill, resolution, regulation, order in council, program, policy, directive, guideline, decision, grant, financial benefit or contract that relating to the lobbying activity;
- (g) modes of communication, including grassroots communication, that lobbyist used; and
- (h) any financial contribution to political parties, candidates, and/or constituency associations as defined under the Election Act made by any organization that an in-house lobbyist is working on behalf of, or in the case of a consultant lobbyist, the client of the consultant lobbyist, made during the time period captured by the log”.

**New Section 25.1**

**7 The following section is added after section 25:**

**“Prohibition of public office holder accepting gifts**

**25.1** No public office holder shall accept a gift within the meaning of clause 2(1)(e.1), except for an MLA who accepts a gift in accordance with *The Members’ Conflict of Interest Act*”.

**Section 28(c) is amended**

**8 Subsection 28(c) is repealed.**

**Coming into force**

**9** This Act comes into force on Assent.

FOURTH SESSION

# Twenty-ninth Legislature

SASKATCHEWAN

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transparency in lobbying activities*

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Received and read the

First time

Second time

Third time

And Passed

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Ms. Meara Conway

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Printed under the authority of  
The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
of Saskatchewan  
2024