Interpretation Bulletin

Not-for-profit Organizations

Not-for-profit organizations – exemptions from registration

See: Toronto Municipal Code, Lobbying, Chapter 140 as amended, 140-4 as amended, 140-1, 140-27, 140-11

Exemption when acting in official capacity

Generally, not-for-profit organizations do not have to register if they lobby while acting in their official capacity.

Exceptions

Some types of not-for-profit organizations are required to register when they lobby, regardless of whether they are acting in their official capacity, including:

- An organization related to professions, labour groups, business, industry or a for-profit entity;
- An organization that is funded by a for-profit entity to advance the financial or commercial interests of the for-profit entity.

When a not-for-profit organization hires a consultant lobbyist to lobby on its behalf, the consultant lobbyist must register.

Requirement to register to lobby about grant applications, awards or other financial benefits

Generally, not-for-profit organizations are required to register to lobby about a grant application, award or other financial benefit. Not-for-profit community service organizations are exempt from this requirement.