

## **Memorandum**

**COTW-C 2-2024**

**Subject:** Niagara Region's Lobbyist Registry

**Date:** April 4, 2024

**To:** Regional Council

**From:** An-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

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At its Committee of the Whole meeting held September 7, 2023, Regional Council was in receipt of training regarding Niagara Region's Lobbyist Registry. At that meeting a request was made for additional training to be conducted and for the by-law and reports to be re-circulated to Council.

### **Background**

The purpose of a lobbyist registry is to put in place disclosure requirements to ensure that residents have access to information about persons who attempt to influence decisions of public office holders through the use of lobbying in relation to legislative actions.

In November, 2021, Regional Council approved the establishment of a Lobbyist Registry Program and approved By-law 2022-24 on April 14, 2022. The By-law included a provision that the enforcement and penalties section of the By-law would not come into effect until six months after the date the By-law was passed. This delay provided an "educational" period for lobbyists to gain familiarity with the By-law requirements.

In order to enforce the By-law, a Lobbyist Registrar is required whose role is to conduct inquiries in respect of a request made by Council, a Member of Council or by a member of the public about compliance with the Lobbyist Registry By-law or Lobbyist Code of Conduct. There were significant difficulties in being able to procure Lobbyist Registrar Services and the enforcement and penalties section of the By-law was further delayed twice, as such that section will come into effect on April 14, 2024.

Further to the training provided on the Lobbyist Registry during Council orientation at the start of the term and the session on September 7, 2023, in order to ensure Council has a full understanding of its roles and responsibilities with respect to the Lobbyist Registry By-law, staff will be conducting an education and training session during the closed session portion of the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 4, 2024.

The Lobbyist Registry By-law and applicable reports received by Council, have been attached to this memorandum.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk

Attachments:

By-law 2022-24	Lobbyist Registry By-law
CLK 2-2021	Considerations for a Lobbyist Registry
CLK 4-2021	Considerations for a Mandatory Lobbyist Registry
CLK 12-2021	Implementation of a Mandatory Lobbyist Registry
CLK 7-2022	Extension of Education Period for Implementation of Lobbyist Registry
CLK 3-2023	Lobbyist Registry
CLK 7-2023	Lobbyist Registrar Services