



# Annual Report

Office of the Ethics  
Commissioner of Alberta

April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022



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## COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to submit the annual report for the Office of the Ethics Commissioner and Registrar of Lobbyists for 2021-2022.

It has been a year of transition from annual meetings being held by telephone to 'in person' meetings, particularly for Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The lack of regard by some MLAs, political staff, and Designated Office Holders towards their statutory obligations to file yearly financial disclosure is troubling. There were 20 late filings of financial disclosure this year. Of those, 7 were assessed an administrative penalty. Member Sawhney was the only Member of the Legislative Assembly who incurred a penalty.

There is no excuse for late filings. On occasion, for legitimate reasons, an extension is granted as long as it is requested prior to the filing deadline. Frequently filings are incomplete and my office expends considerable time following up to obtain complete disclosure.

My Lobbyist Registrar and General Counsel, Lara Draper, resigned her position to transfer to Alberta Justice to do work drafting legislation. She is exceptionally suited for her new role. A new Lobbyist Registrar and General Counsel, Josh de Groot, was hired after year end.

Requests for advice rose again after an exceptionally low year in 2020-2021 due to COVID-19.

The office participated in the statutory review of the *Lobbyists Act* during the year. I emphasized the need for greater transparency with respect to lobbying of government officials and suggested a number of administrative changes to simplify the registry. In particular, the office's submission requested the implementation of a lobbyists meeting registry and a reduction of the threshold hours before registration is required.

I look forward to the review of the *Conflicts of Interest Act* next year. The legislation is in need of serious reform.

## MANDATE

The *Conflicts of Interest Act* was passed in 1991, S.A. Chapter C.22.1 (now R.S.A, Chapter C-23), and created the Office of the Ethics Commissioner of Alberta. The Office is also responsible for the administration of the *Lobbyists Act*, Statutes of Alberta 2007, Chapter L-20.5 (“*Lobbyists Act*”), under which the Ethics Commissioner appoints the Lobbyist Registrar. The Ethics Commissioner is an Officer of the Legislature and is appointed by an Order in Council following a motion in the Legislative Assembly approving the appointment.

The Ethics Commissioner reports to the Legislative Assembly through the Speaker and files annual reports and investigation reports with the Speaker of the House for tabling in the Legislature. The Ethics Commissioner presents budgetary estimates through the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices. The Legislative Assembly approves the budget for the Office of the Ethics Commissioner.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ACT

The preamble of the *Conflicts of Interest Act* sets out some of the basic ethical requirements:

- Ethical conduct of elected officials is expected in democracies;
- Members of the Legislative Assembly serve Albertans most effectively if they come from a broad spectrum of occupations and continue to participate actively in the community;
- Members of the Legislative Assembly are expected to perform their duties of office and arrange their private affairs in a manner which promotes public confidence and trust in the integrity of each Member, maintains the Assembly’s dignity and justifies the respect in which society holds the Assembly and its Members;
- Members of the Legislative Assembly, in reconciling their duties of office and their private interests, are expected to act with integrity and impartiality; and
- Ministers and their staff must avoid conduct that violates public trust or creates an appearance of impropriety.

Through the *Conflicts of Interest Act*, and the *Public Service Act*, the Office of the Ethics Commissioner:

- Promotes an understanding of obligations of Members of the Legislative Assembly, Designated Office Holder, Designated Senior Official, and political staff under the Acts;
- Receives financial disclosure statements from Members, Designated Senior Officials, Designated Office Holders and political staff in the Premier’s and Ministers’ offices;
- Provides advice to Members and former Members, current or former political staff, Designated Senior Officials, and Designated Office Holders;
- Provides advice to individuals governed by post-employment restrictions; and
- Investigates alleged breaches of the Conflicts of Interest Act by Members, Designated

Senior Officials, political staff and breaches of the conflicts of interest and post-employment provisions of the Public Service Act by Designated Office Holders.

- Hear appeals pertaining to conflict of interest decisions of Deputy Ministers under the Public Service Code of Conduct.

Upon receiving an investigation report of conduct of a Member from the Office of the Ethics Commissioner, the Speaker is required to release the report publicly. If the Legislature is in session, the report is tabled in the Legislature. If the Legislature is not in session, the report is filed as an intersessional tabling. If the Ethics Commissioner recommends a sanction in an investigation report, the Legislative Assembly debates and votes on the investigation report within 15 days after the report is tabled, or at such other time determined by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly.

Under section 29 of the *Conflicts of Interest Act*, the Legislative Assembly may accept or reject the findings of the Office of the Ethics Commissioner or substitute its own findings. If the Legislative Assembly determines there is a breach, it may impose the sanction recommended by the Ethics Commissioner, any other sanction referred to in section 27(2) which it considers appropriate, or the Legislative Assembly may refrain from imposing a sanction. The Legislative Assembly has final authority about disciplinary matters relating to its Members.

Under the provisions of the *Conflicts of Interest Act*, reports of an investigation involving a Designated Senior Official may only be disclosed to the responsible Minister and the Chief Executive Officer or Chair of the Board of the agency. Investigations of political staff serving in the Office of the Premier or a Minister under the *Conflicts of Interest Act* are disclosed to either the Premier or the relevant Minister.

Reports of an investigation under the *Public Service Act* involving a Designated Office Holder may only be disclosed by the Ethics Commissioner to the Deputy Minister of Executive Council and the relevant Minister if it pertains to a Deputy Minister, the Premier if it pertains to the Deputy Minister of Executive Council, or, if it pertains to a Designated Office Holder other than a Deputy Minister, to the Minister responsible for that entity. The Office of the Ethics Commissioner is not authorized to publicly release any of these reports.

## LOBBYISTS ACT

The *Lobbyists Act* is intended to enhance the integrity and accountability of government by fostering openness and transparency about who is influencing decisions made by public office holders. The *Lobbyists Act* establishes two categories of lobbyists: consultant lobbyists and organization lobbyists. The *Lobbyists Act* prohibits a person from lobbying the Government or a prescribed provincial entity and providing paid advice at the same time, and from lobbying in respect of a subject matter if a person associated with them provides paid advice to Government or a prescribed provincial entity on that subject matter (and vice versa), unless an exemption is granted.

The *Lobbyists Act* preamble describes its basic principles:

- Free and open access to government is an important matter of public interest;
- Lobbying public office holders is a legitimate activity;
- The public and public office holders should know who is engaged in lobbying activities;
- A registration system of paid lobbyists should not impede free and open access to government; and
- The public and public office holders should know who is contracting with the Government of Alberta and provincial entities.

During the fiscal year, the requirement to register as an organization lobbyist applied once a lobbyist performs, or is required to perform, over 50 hours of lobbying annually (including preparation time), either individually or collectively with others in their organization. However, some lobbyists, as a matter of practice, register before they reach the threshold. Consultant lobbyists are required to register within ten days of entering into an undertaking to lobby. The Office of the Ethics Commissioner maintains a web-based lobbyist registry system and database. It is searchable by the general public. The registry provides openness and transparency by:

- Recording the identities and activities of people paid to lobby public office holders;
- Recording the identities of organizations and clients who pay lobbyists to lobby public office holders on their behalf;
- Allowing lobbyists to file, update, renew and terminate registrations by submitting returns and notices for acceptance into the system; and
- Allowing public scrutiny.

The registry allows access 24 hours per day, seven days per week, for both the public and lobbyists.

The Ethics Commissioner may authorize any individual in the Office of the Ethics Commissioner to act as Registrar and to perform any of the powers, duties or functions of the Registrar under the *Lobbyists Act*. The Ethics Commissioner delegates the administrative and enforcement responsibilities of the Registrar to the Lobbyist Registrar, who is also the General Counsel to the Ethics Commissioner.

Under the *Lobbyists Act*, certain powers and responsibilities are reserved for the Ethics Commissioner and cannot be delegated, including:

- Exemptions from the contracting prohibitions in s. 6 of the *Lobbyists Act* (e.g. allowing a person to provide paid advice to government while at the same time lobbying the government), with or without conditions;
- Issuing advisory opinions and interpretation bulletins; and
- Banning serious offenders from lobbying.

The Ethics Commissioner reports to the Legislative Assembly through the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on investigations under the *Lobbyists Act*. If the House is sitting, the report is tabled. If the House is not sitting, the report is distributed to Members, after which the Ethics Commissioner may make the report public. A report provided when the House is not sitting is tabled when the House next sits.

## DISCLOSURE PROCESS

This year, all Members of the Legislative Assembly, Designated Office Holders, Designated Senior Officials and political staff complied with their obligation to file disclosure statements. However, several were late in filing and had to be reminded they were late and would be subject to an administrative penalty if the disclosure was not filed within a set period of time. This year, 20 warning letters and 5 administrative penalties were assessed.

There is no excuse for late filing as two month's notice is given prior to the submission date and there is a ten day reminder sent.

Disclosure statements include information about the Member, Designated Office Holder, Designated Senior Official or political staff, spouses or adult interdependent partners and minor children. It requires disclosing:

- All assets, including ownership of publicly traded securities, all liabilities, and financial interests in any private corporation where they are Director or the entity is controlled by them or their spouse;
- Any income received in the previous twelve months;
- Any legal proceedings brought against them and any taxes owing.

The Office of the Ethics Commissioner received private disclosures from 87 Members and met with each Member personally to discuss their disclosure. Previously, Members' public disclosure statements were released through the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. However, as a result of the changes to the *Conflicts of Interest Act* in December 2014, public disclosure statements are now posted on the Office of the Ethics Commissioner website sometime after the Member's meeting with the Ethics Commissioner.

Designated Office Holders are required to submit disclosure statements under the *Public Service Act* and Designated Senior Officials are required to submit disclosure statements under the *Conflicts of Interest Act*. Disclosure meetings were conducted with all Designated Office Holders and all Designated Senior Officials. There are no public disclosure statements for Designated Office Holders or Designated Senior Officials.

Senior political staff working in the Office of the Premier, certain Premier's Office staff, Chiefs of Staff, Press Secretaries and Ministerial Assistants are also required to provide financial disclosure to the Office of the Ethics Commissioner. There are no public disclosure statements for political staff.

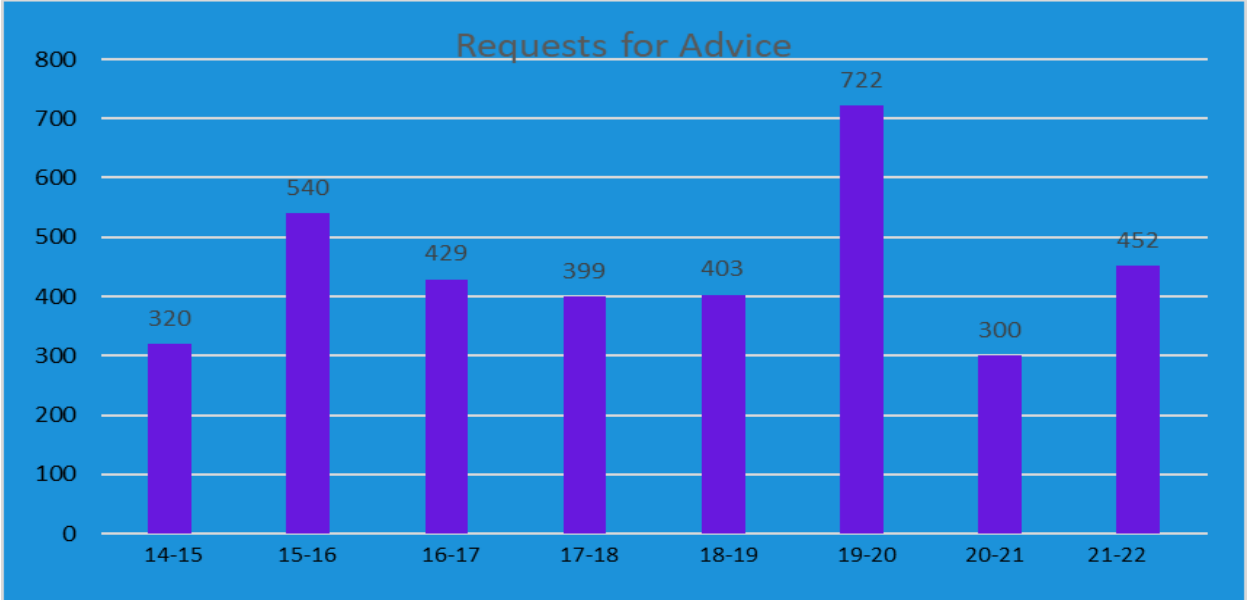
*Number of individuals who were late in submitting all disclosure information*

Category of Filer:	Compliance:
Members of the Legislative Assembly	11 late filing warning letters were issued
	1 MLA was issued an administrative penalty
Designated Office Holders	0 late filing warning letters were issued
	0 DOHs were issued an administrative penalty
Political Staff	4 late filing warning letters were issued
	2 political staff members were issued an administrative penalty
Designated Senior Officials	5 late filing warning letters were issued
	2 DSOs were issued an administrative penalty

## REQUESTS FOR ADVICE

If Members, Designated Office Holders, Designated Senior Officials, or political staff seek and follow advice from the Ethics Commissioner, they are protected from any proceeding or prosecution for a breach of the *Conflicts of Interest Act*. Advice is typically given in writing.

*Total Requests for Advice under the Conflicts of Interest Act 2021-22*





### Breakdown of Requests for Advice

Types of Advice	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Gifts	110	267	280	253	219	407	61	200
Post-Employment	95	105	26	40	29	90	24	87
Outside Activities	19	17	12	20	26	41	39	19
Investments	13	24	19	7	35	54	59	54
Family	18	12	10	9	6	15	9	6
Constituency Issues	8	13	10	9	5	5	4	5
Codes of Conduct	5	26	2	0	22	6	10	4
Contracts with the Crown	9	10	7	2	0	2	5	4
Taking Part in Decisions	6	6	7	14	15	19	24	5
Conflicts of Interest/Other	27	57	41	38	21	48	38	28
Reviewing SO Appointments	10	3	15	7	19	20	5	12
Concurrent Employment	0	0	0	0	6	15	22	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>452</b>

Note: requests for advice pertaining to DSO concurrent employment only started in 2018-19 as a result of the amendments requiring Codes of Conduct be instituted by certain government agencies, boards and commissions.

#### Gifts

Questions are raised about accepting tickets to sporting events, invitations to fundraisers, invitations to conferences and non-commercial flights. Members are required to track all gifts over \$100, including event tickets, to ensure they have accurate records for yearly disclosure and are mindful of both the value of cumulative gifts they receive from one source in a reporting year and any connection between a source and the Member's public responsibilities.

#### Post-Employment

Post-employment questions arise from departing Ministers, Designated Office Holders, Designated Senior Officials and political staff.

#### Outside Activities

Questions regarding outside activities almost exclusively deal with volunteer board activities in community organizations and clarification on external business activities.

### *Investments*

Investment requests relate to blind trusts and personal investments of the individual or their family. Where potential conflicts existed, appropriate steps were taken by the parties to remove themselves from the situation prior to a conflict arising.

### *Family*

Questions involving family members involve either the employment or activities of a spouse or child.

### *Constituency Issues*

Questions relate to assisting constituents, using the constituency allowance for social obligations within the constituency. Where questions about the Member's constituency allowance fall within the mandate of the Office of the Speaker, the Member is referred to Legislative Assembly Office.

### *Codes of Conduct*

Several agencies, boards and commissions, seek informal confidential advice on conflict of interest matters relating to their agency's code of conduct.

### *Contracts*

Contract questions are often raised by individuals about their dealings with Alberta Treasury Branch, and by others regarding other business, financial or Crown contracts.

### *Taking Part in Decisions*

Generally, individuals consider their personal holdings and those of close family members and ask whether it is appropriate to participate in a decision before the Legislative Assembly or one of its committees, or before Executive Council or one of its committees. The Office of the Ethics Commissioner advises whether a private interest is involved or whether the matter is a general application which affects the Member only as a broad class of the public, thereby allowing the Member to participate and vote.

### *Conflicts of Interest/Other*

This is a general category where requests for advice do not fall within the other categories but do fall within the general scope of the *Conflicts of Interest Act*.

### *Reviewing Senior Official Appointments and Vetting of Potential Board Member Appointments*

Sometimes, as part of the screening and hiring process, potential conflicts of interest issues arise with certain candidates for certain senior government or board positions. In these cases, or in cases where it is prudent to ensure there are no underlying conflict of interest issues, the Office of the Ethics Commissioner may review selected candidate's backgrounds and investment holdings to ensure there are no issues and provide related advice.

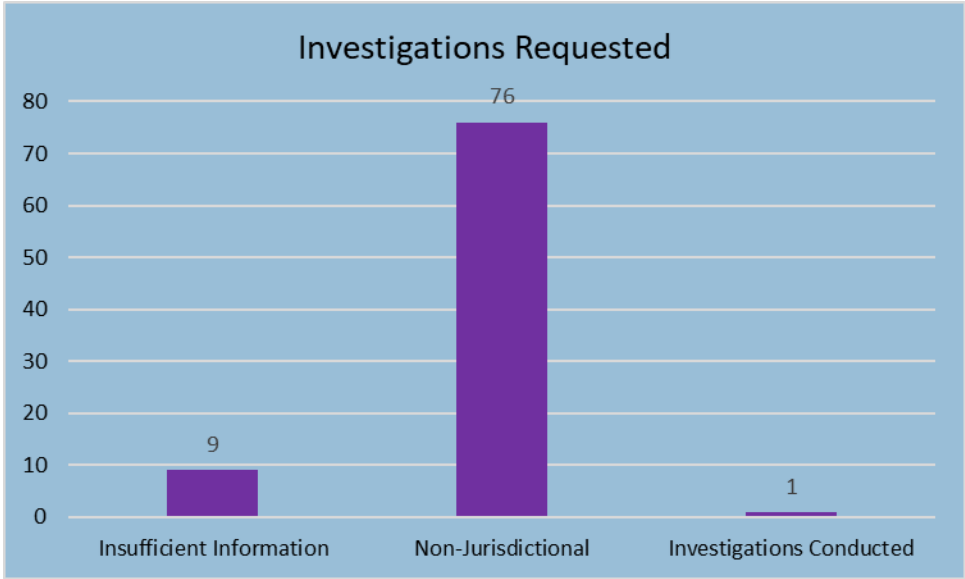
### *Concurrent Employment*

Beginning in 2018-19, Designated Senior Officials and Chief Executive Officers of certain public agencies were required to obtain the Ethics Commissioner's approval for any outside employment. There were 28 requests for concurrent employment approval made by Designated Senior Officials in 2021-2022.

# REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATION

Investigation requests, once received, are considered and then acted upon accordingly. If sufficient evidence and grounds are provided, and the issue is within the jurisdiction of the Office of the Ethics Commissioner, an investigation is conducted. If the request is vague or frivolous or contains overly broad allegations, and further relevant information is not provided upon request, the request is categorized as “insufficient information”. If sufficient information is provided, but the request is determined to pertain to someone other than a Member, Designated Senior Official or political staffer, or is a complaint that does not fall within the scope of the *Conflicts of Interest Act*, it is classified as “non-jurisdictional”.

*Request for Investigations by Category 2021-2022      Total: 85 (down from 138 last year)*



Of the 85 requests for investigation, the Office of the Ethics Commissioner found that the Office did not have jurisdiction on 76 of the requests. There was one investigation completed this year pertaining to allegations involving Minister Adrianna LaGrange. Investigation reports are tabled in the Legislative Assembly and can also be found at:

<http://www.ethicscommissioner.ab.ca/publications/investigation-reports/commissioner-trussler/>.

## REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

The Office of the Ethics Commissioner received 23 requests for information this year, down from 50 the year prior. The majority of requests were from callers seeking clarification about the Office of the Ethics Commissioner's mandate and the relevant legislation. Information requested concerned employment standards, professional standards and conduct, Member compensation, post-employment, blind trusts, gift acceptance, public disclosure, conduct in non-profit organizations and legislation surrounding investigations. Callers who could not be assisted were referred, where possible, to the appropriate office that could answer the inquiry.

Total Requests Received for	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Advice	320	540	429	399	403	722	300	452
Investigations	26	79	114	105	107	437	138	85
Information	23	30	60	36	27	35	50	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>1194</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>560</b>

## CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEWS

The Office of the Ethics Commissioner reviews and approves the Codes of Conduct of various agencies, boards and commission under Part 4.3 of the *Conflicts of Interest Act*. This year, the Office of the Ethics Commissioner approved Codes of Conduct for two new agencies. Approved amendments to 19 existing Codes of Conduct and provided advice regarding Codes of Conduct on at least 16 occasions.

## BUDGET AND FISCAL UPDATE

The Office of the Ethics Commissioner continually ensures prudent expenditure of public funds and strives to find internal efficiencies and savings wherever possible and reasonable. As a result, the office's expenses last year were less than budgeted.

Full copies of the 2021-22 audited financial statements are located on the Office of the Ethics Commissioner website: <http://www.ethicscommissioner.ab.ca/publications/annual-reports/>.

	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Budget	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Budget	2021-22 Actual
Salaries	\$748,000	\$730,103	\$730,000	\$711,441	\$725,000	\$737,189	\$745,500	\$702,630
Supplies and Expenses	\$222,000	\$181,870	\$214,500	\$124,014	\$214,500	\$124,125	\$186,500	\$123,923
Capital Acquisitions	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$ 49,101	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$970,000</b>	<b>\$911,973</b>	<b>\$944,500</b>	<b>\$884,556</b>	<b>\$939,500</b>	<b>\$861,314</b>	<b>\$932,000</b>	<b>\$826,553</b>
<b>Unexpended Budget Allocation</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>\$58,027</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>\$59,944</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>\$78,186</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>\$105,447</b>

## EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Participating in annual conferences is very beneficial to further the work of the Office. Conferences provide the Office of the Ethics Commissioner the opportunity to exchange information with peers on issues of common interest and to review legislative and regulatory differences and trends. The office attended, virtually, the Canadian Conflicts of Interest Network conference and the Lobbyists Registrars and Commissioners Network conference in 2021.

## PUBLICATIONS

A routine review of brochures and guides is undertaken each year to ensure they are current. Educational information is reviewed to ensure it is as user-friendly as possible. Brochures and bulletins on the public website are reviewed and updated as needed.

## PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE ACT REPORTING

The Office of the Ethics Commissioner received no disclosures, and conducted no investigations, under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act* during the fiscal 2021-22 reporting year.

# LOBBYISTS ACT AND REGISTRY UPDATE

## REQUESTS FOR AND PROVISION OF GUIDANCE

As part of a proactive approach to achieving compliance with the *Lobbyists Act*, the Lobbyist Registrar continued to respond regularly to requests for guidance from lobbyists, potential lobbyists, and others about the *Lobbyists Act* provisions, as well as to requests for assistance with using the Lobbyist Registry application and website.

The Registrar regularly addressed questions and provided guidance about:

- whether a particular organization or individual is subject to the *Lobbyists Act* and needs to register in the Lobbyist Registry;
- the applicable registration deadlines and requirements;
- whether certain information must be disclosed in a registration in the Lobbyist Registry and how to disclose the required information;
- whether certain activities fall within the definition of “lobby” and the scope of the *Lobbyists Act*;
- the contracting prohibitions, the prohibition on contingent payments, and the ‘prohibited gifts’ provision in the *Lobbyists Act*;
- how to set up an account in the Lobbyist Registry;
- how to change a password, account user, or account information in the Lobbyist Registry;
- how to complete, submit, update or terminate a registration in the Lobbyist Registry.

Between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022, at least 228 requests for information or guidance about the interpretation and application of the *Lobbyists Act* and at least 484 requests for assistance with using the Lobbyist Registry application and website were received and addressed. These numbers are approximate and based on internal efforts to track all requests received and answered.

In addition to responding to requests on an individual basis, the Registrar continued to send courtesy emails to all individuals with an active user account in the Lobbyist Registry to remind or notify them of important and timely *Lobbyists Act* issues where necessary. The Registrar sent such an email on June 3, 2021, in advance of the Calgary Stampede, to remind users of their obligation to comply with the ‘prohibited gifts’ provision in the *Lobbyists Act*.

The Registrar also continued to regularly review and enhance the resources on the Lobbyist Registry website and in the Lobbyist Registry application to give detailed and clear guidance about the *Lobbyists Act* and Lobbyist Registry on a proactive, transparent, and widespread basis. During this fiscal year, the Registrar:

- reviewed and updated all existing FAQ on the Lobbyist Registry website;
- created and added many new FAQ to the Lobbyist Registry website;
- reviewed and updated all existing webpages under the 'For Lobbyists' tab of the Lobbyist Registry website;
- reviewed and updated the question text and help icon content in registration and request forms in the Lobbyist Registry application;
- reviewed and updated the content of the templates for the automatically generated email notices that are sent to users by the Lobbyist Registry application;
- reviewed and updated all existing guidance documents, forms, and user guides on the Lobbyist Registry website;
- created and added two new guidance documents to the Lobbyist Registry website entitled "Consultant Lobbyists – Filing Requirements and Lobbyist Returns" and "Organization Lobbyists – Filing Requirements and Lobbyist Returns", which provide detailed guidance about how to complete registrations in compliance with the *Lobbyists Act* requirements;
- created and added a new guidance document to the Lobbyist Registry website entitled 'Disclosure of Government Funding', which provides detailed guidance about the requirement to disclose in a registration all government, government agency or prescribed Provincial entity funding received or requested within the last 12 months.

## INFORMATION ON FILING REGISTRATIONS

As in previous years, the Lobbyist Registrar continued to review registrations submitted to the Lobbyist Registry to ensure compliance with the applicable registration requirements. This involved making inquiries of and following up with lobbyists with a view to having them accurately and transparently disclose all information required to be disclosed in their registrations pursuant to the *Lobbyists Act*, including lobbying activities, lobbyist information, and organization or client information. However, lobbyists remain liable for ensuring that the information that they provide in their registrations is forthright, coherent, complete, up-to-date, and accurate.

This office also continued to issue courtesy reminders and notifications to *registered* lobbyists about their filing deadlines and to *unregistered* users (i) who had set up an account in the Registry but never created or filed any registrations or (ii) who had an account in the Registry and had created a draft registration but never completed or filed the draft. Although ultimately it remains lobbyists' responsibility to ensure that they complete and submit any necessary registrations within the timelines required by the Act, we continue to carry out those services with a view to promoting compliance, to assisting users with fulfilling their filing obligations, and to preventing or mitigating breaches of the registration requirements at the earliest opportunity.

As previously mentioned, during the fiscal year, the Registrar also updated the user guides on the Lobbyist Registry website, the webpages under the 'For Lobbyists' tab of the Lobbyist Registry website, the question text and help icon content in the Lobbyist Registry application, and the

content of the automatically generated email notices that are sent to users by the Lobbyist Registry application. This was done to further clarify the processes for setting up and managing an account in the Lobbyist Registry, completing, filing and maintaining a registration, and searching the Lobbyist Registry.

As in past years, this office also continued to compile and post quarterly 'Lobbyist Registry Reports' on the Lobbyist Registry website, which provide basic statistics about active registrations.

## *INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT*

While this office continues to take a proactive approach to compliance, lobbyists remain responsible for ensuring that they are familiar and comply with their obligations under the Act.

The Lobbyist Registrar and Ethics Commissioner have enforcement powers available to encourage compliance with the Act, including the ability to remove a return from the Lobbyist Registry if a lobbyist does not comply with certain filing requirements under the Act, the ability to commence an investigation and/or impose an administrative penalty, and, if a lobbyist is convicted of an offence, the ability to impose a prohibition from lobbying and from filing or having a return filed for a period of up to two years.

During the fiscal year, the Registrar continued to make inquiries of and follow up with lobbyists and potential lobbyists to determine whether they have breached or are in breach of the *Lobbyists Act* and to seek explanations for any non-compliance. This was carried out with a view to determining whether a warning, an administrative penalty, and/or other enforcement action was necessary to achieve compliance with the *Lobbyists Act* provisions. No administrative penalties were issued between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022.

## *COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE LOBBYISTS ACT*

On June 15, 2021, the *Lobbyists Act* was referred to the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive review of the Act.

The Committee met to begin its review on September 13, 2021. The Committee must submit a report to the Legislative Assembly that includes any recommended amendments to the Act within one year after starting its review.

This office participated in the review, at the Committee's request, by providing a technical briefing about the *Lobbyists Act* to the Committee on October 22, 2021, by providing a written submission regarding recommended amendments to improve the *Lobbyists Act* on November 23, 2021, and by presenting to the Committee and answering its questions about this office's written submission on February 23, 2022. As of March 31, 2022, the Committee's review of the *Lobbyists Act* remained ongoing.

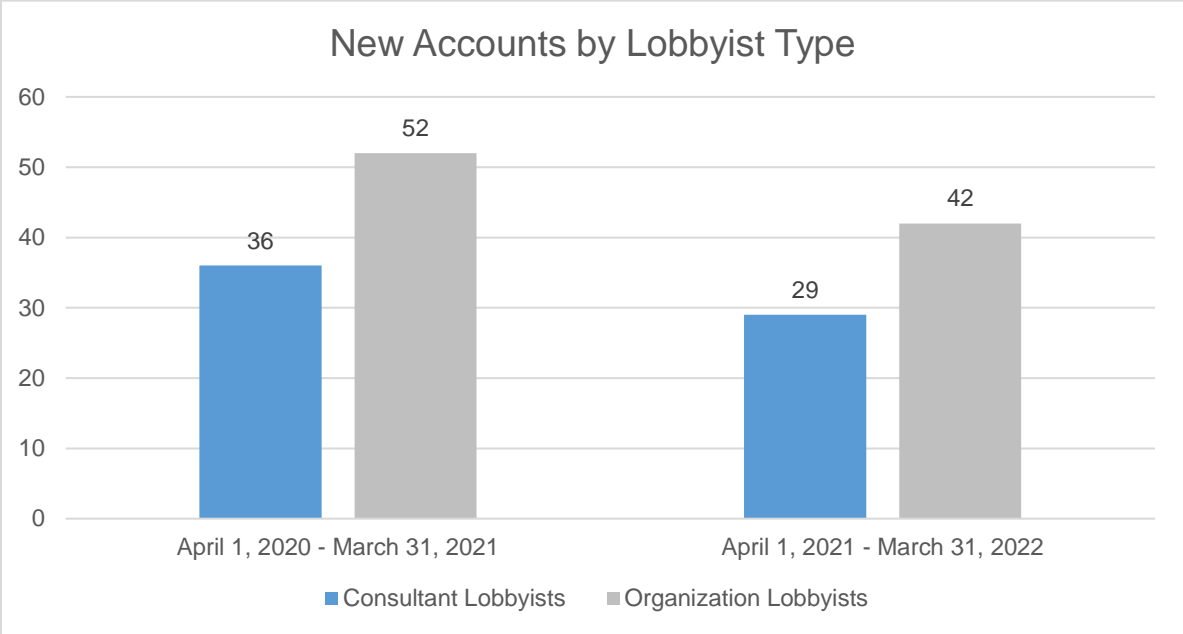
At the Committee's request, this office also an email on October 26, 2021 to all individuals with an active user account in the Lobbyist Registry to inform them of the opportunity and deadline to make written submissions in the review.



# STATISTICAL YEAR IN REVIEW

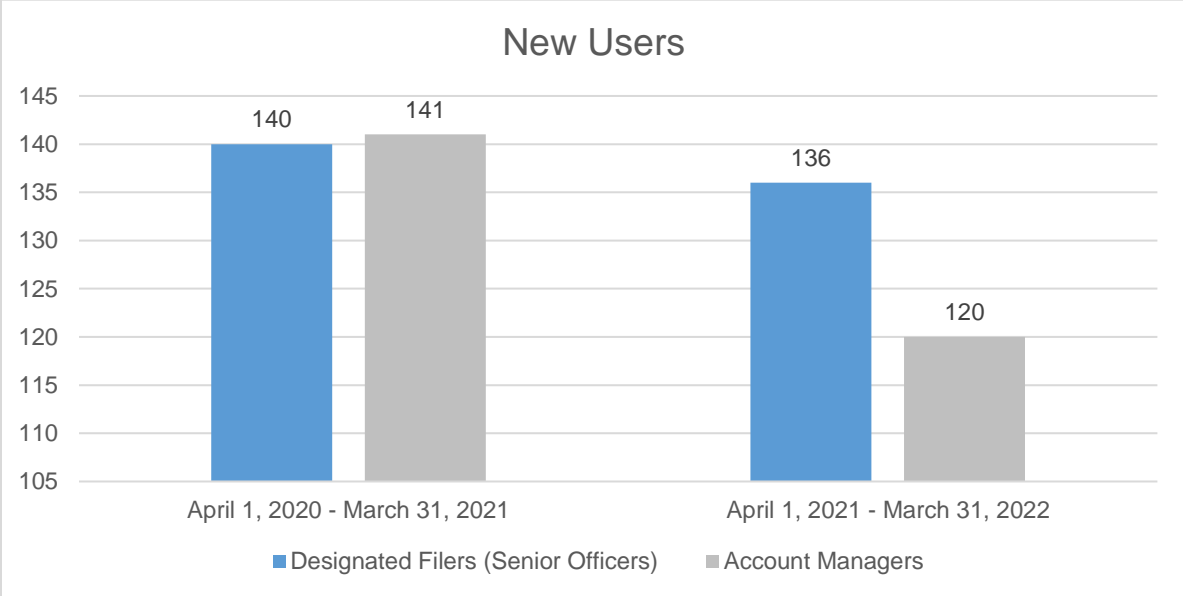
## New Accounts by Lobbyist Type between April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

Provides a count of all new organization accounts in the Registry by lobbyist type. There are two types of lobbyists: consultant lobbyists and organization lobbyists.



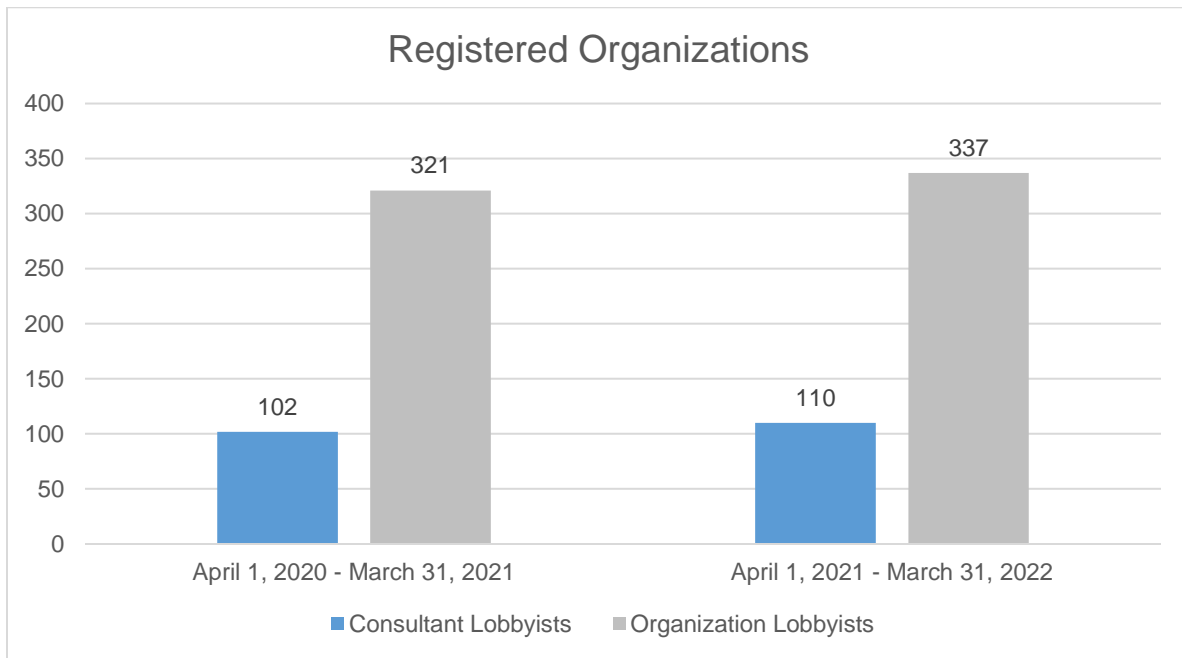
## New Users between April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

Provides a count of all new users in the Registry by user account type. There are two types of user accounts: designated filers and account managers.



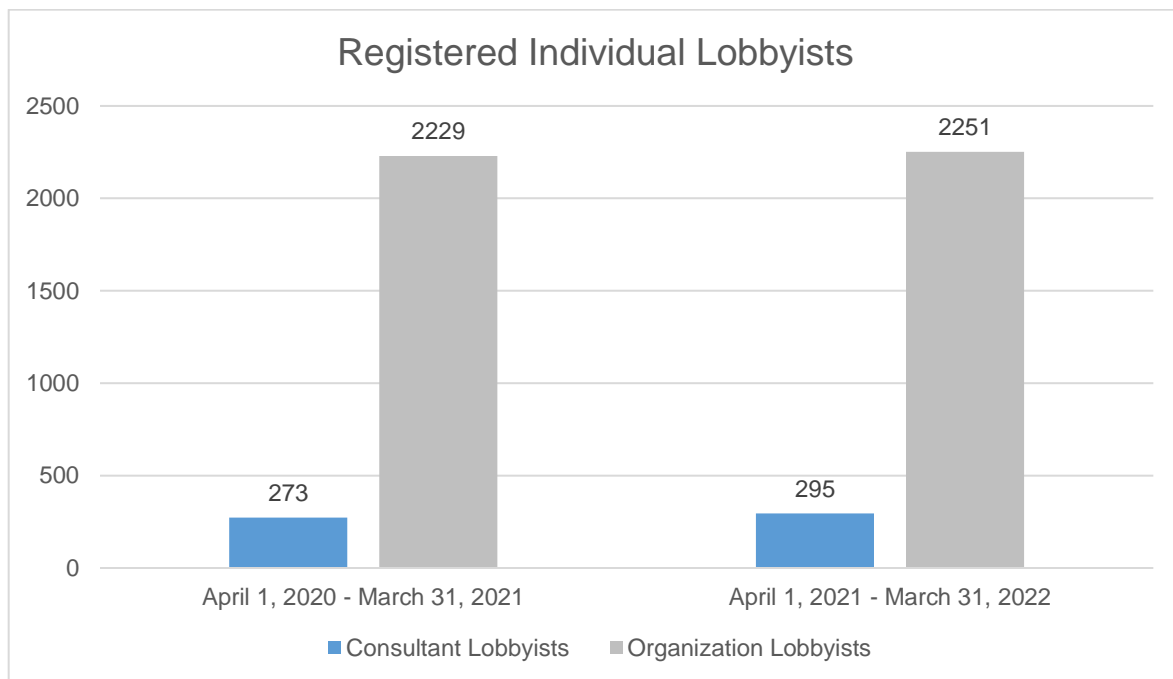
### Registered Organizations by Lobbyist Type as of March 31, 2022

Provides a count of all organizations that have one or more active registrations by lobbyist type. There are two types of lobbyists: consultant lobbyists and organization lobbyists.



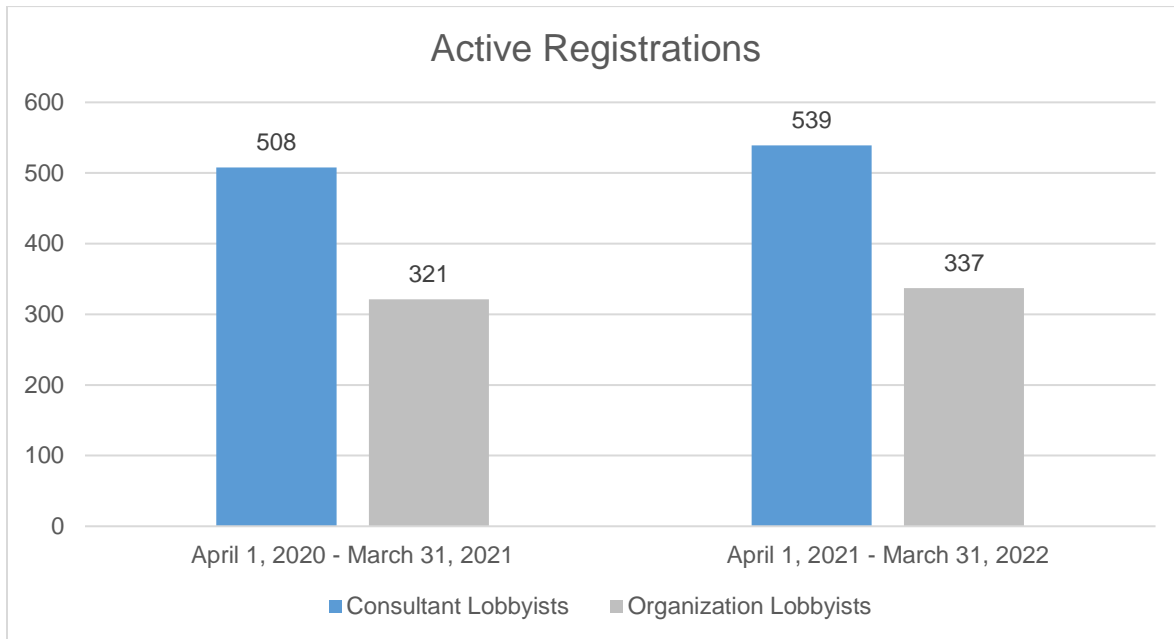
### Registered Individual Lobbyists by Lobbyist Type as of March 31, 2022

Provides a count of all individuals registered as lobbyists by lobbyist type. There are two types of lobbyists: consultant lobbyists and organization lobbyists.



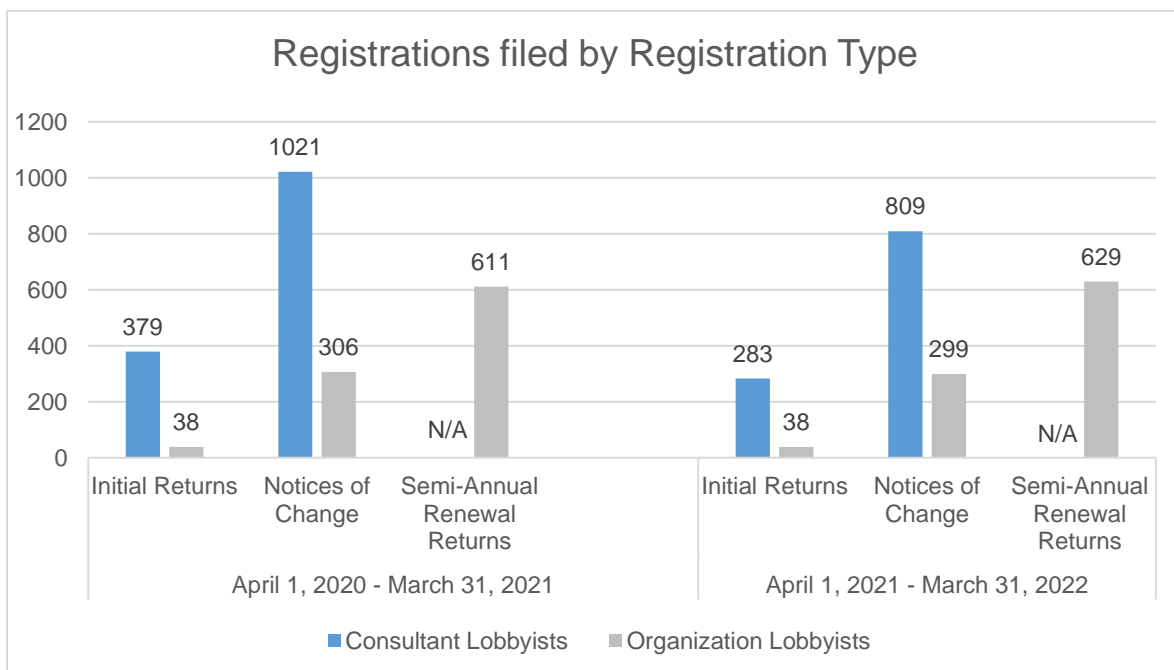
### Active Registrations by Lobbyist Type as of March 31, 2022

Provides a count of all active registrations for each lobbyist type. Since an initial return must be filed for each undertaking to lobby on behalf of a client, many consultant lobbyists have multiple registrations in the Registry at the same time. An organization lobbyist only has one registration in the Registry at any given time.



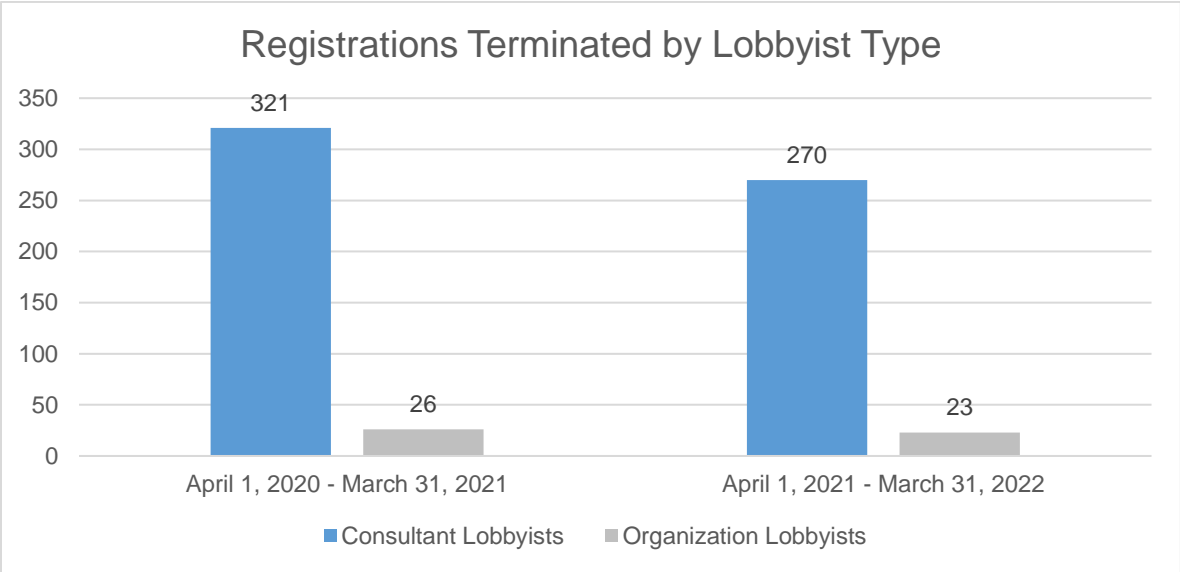
### Registrations Filed between April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

Provides a count of all registrations filed by registration type. There are three registration types: Initial Returns, Notices of Change and Semi-Annual Renewal Returns.



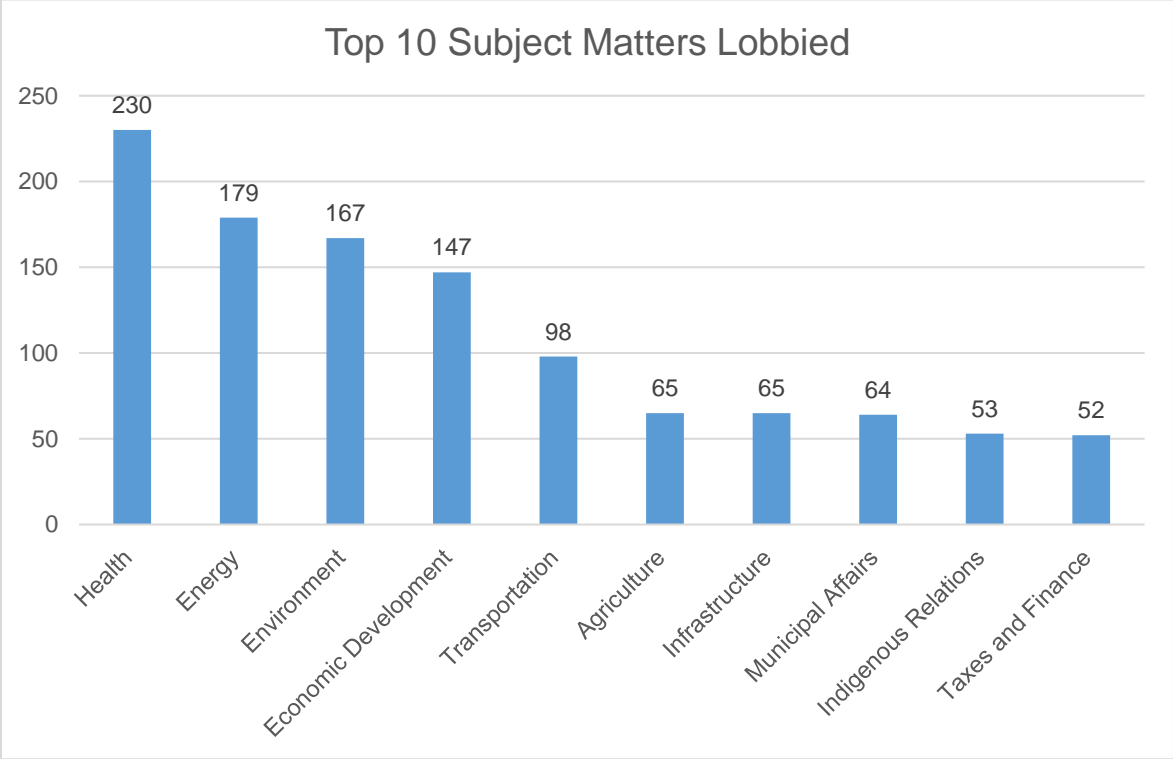
*Registrations Terminated between April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022*

Provides a count of all terminated registrations by lobbyist type. There are two types of lobbyists: consultant lobbyists and organization lobbyists.



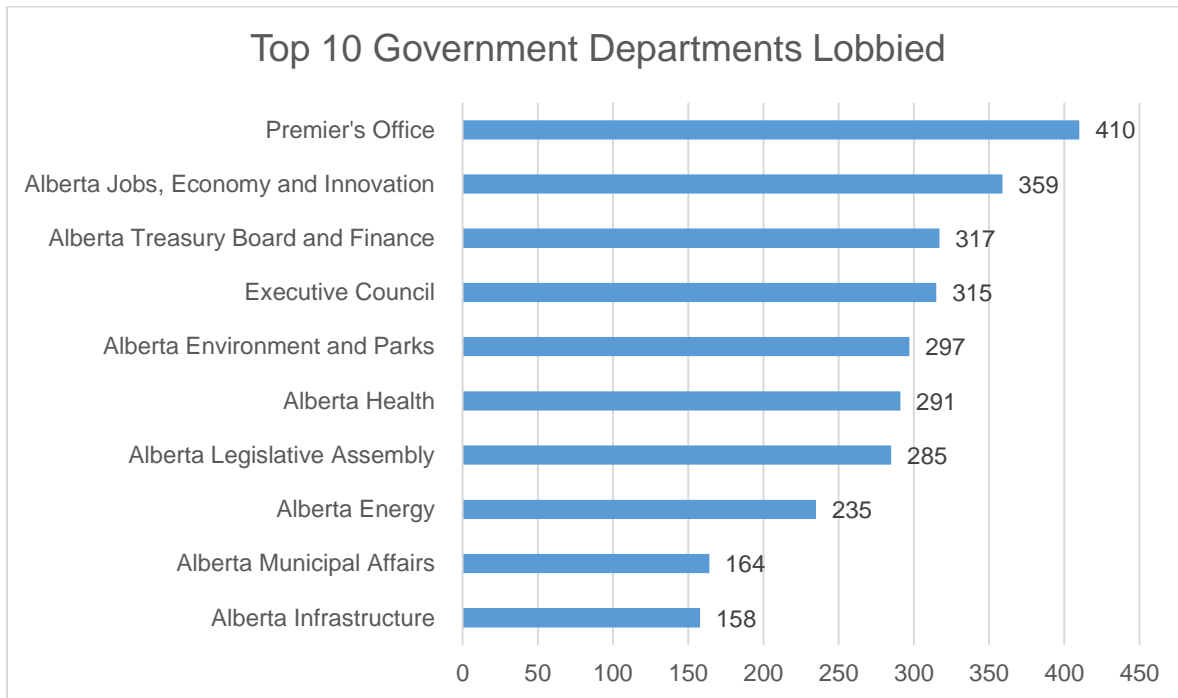
*Active Registrations by Subject Matter as of March 31, 2022*

Provides a count of all active registrations that indicate the subject matter.



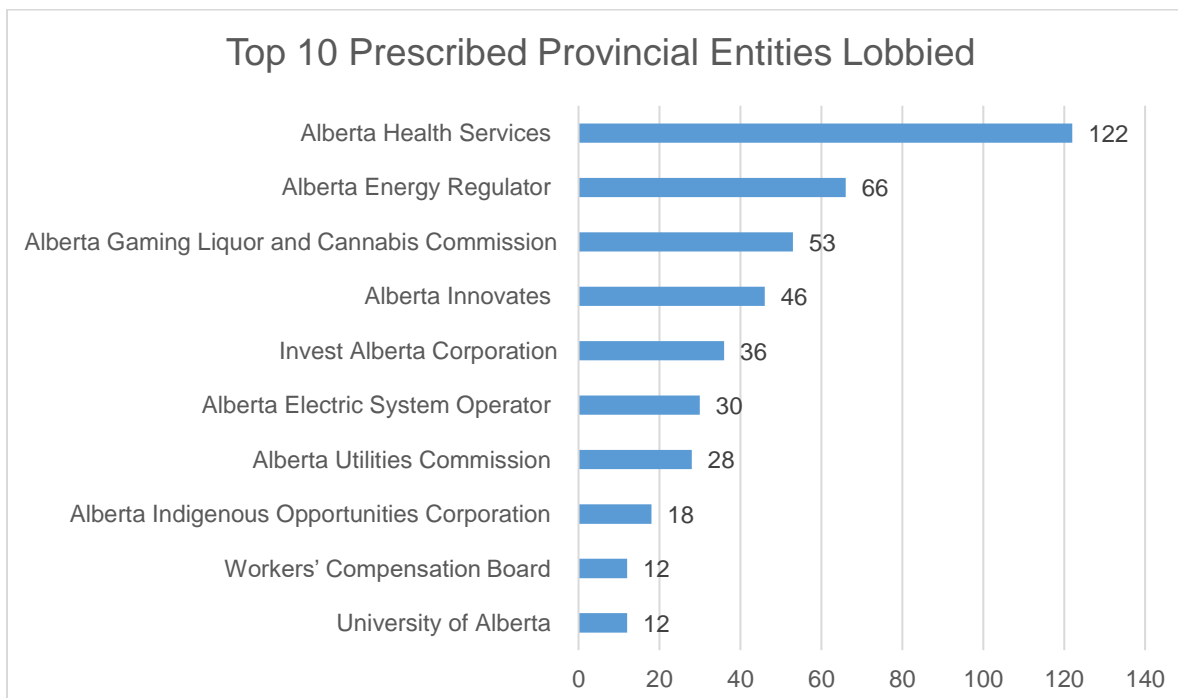
*Active Registrations by Government Departments Lobbied as of March 31, 2022*

Provides a count of all active registrations that indicate the Government department.



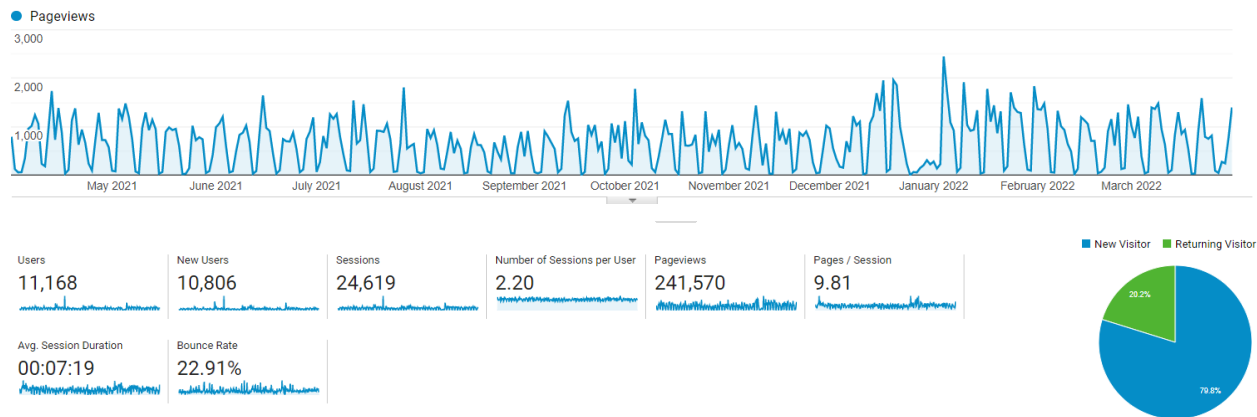
*Active Registrations by Prescribed Provincial Entities Lobbied as of March 31, 2022*

Provides a count of all active registrations that indicate the prescribed Provincial entity.



*Lobbyist Registry Website Activity between April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022*

## Audience Overview



Legend	Definition
Users	Users who have initiated at least one session during the date range.
New users	The number of first-time users during the selected date range.
Pageviews	Pageviews is the total number of pages viewed. Repeated views of a single page are counted.
Page Title	The webpage title used on the website.
Sessions	Total number of sessions within the date range. A session is a group of user interactions with our website that take place within a given time frame. For example a single session can contain multiple page views, events, and applications.
Pages	Pages is the average number of pages viewed during a session. Repeated views of a single page are counted.
Number of Sessions per User	The average number of sessions per user.
Bounce Rate	The percentage of single-page sessions in which there was no interaction with the page. A bounced session has a duration of 0 seconds. A high bounce rate indicates that website users land on one page and leave without clicking on anywhere else on the website.

## Top 10 Webpages Viewed

