

Annual Report

Office of the Ethics
Commissioner of Alberta

April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE.....	2
MANDATE	4
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ACT	4
LOBBYISTS ACT	5
DISCLOSURE PROCESS	7
REQUESTS FOR ADVICE.....	8
REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATION	11
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.....	12
CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEWS.....	12
BUDGET AND FISCAL UPDATE.....	12
EVENTS AND CONFERENCES	13
PUBLICATIONS.....	13
PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE ACT REPORTING	13
LOBBYISTS ACT AND REGISTRY UPDATE	14

COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to submit my first annual report for the Office of the Ethics Commissioner. This report covers the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Having been sworn into office on May 27, 2024, this report is for the year prior to me assuming the role of Ethics Commissioner. As such, the Annual Report follows the format that has been used in previous years.

The primary work of this office is, under the Conflicts of Interest Act, to help ensure that Members of the Legislative Assembly, Designated Office Holders, Senior Officials, Designated Senior Officials and Staff Serving in the Offices of the Premier and Ministers do not use their public office to improperly further their, or their direct associates', private interests. This helps preserve the public's confidence in the elected officials, senior bureaucrats and the Government of Alberta as a whole.

This is accomplished by reviewing the financial affairs of these individuals, with the exception of Senior Officials, annually with a view to ensuring there are no conflicts of interest between their public roles and their private interests. The advice we provide, if followed, protects these individuals. On occasion, where there are sufficient grounds and particulars to warrant an investigation we will conduct investigations into potential breaches and conflicts and provide reports to certain parties as specifically prescribed in the Conflicts of Interest Act.

The Ethics Commissioner is also responsible for the administration of the Lobbyists Act. The Lobbyists Act enhances the integrity and accountability of government by fostering openness and transparency about who is influencing the decisions of public office holders. For example, the Lobbyists Act forbids a person from simultaneously performing the activities of lobbying and providing paid advice to Government and prescribed Provincial entities, unless an exemption is given. The Office of the Ethics Commissioner maintains an electronic lobbyist registry system accessible through our website that enables online registration by lobbyists and allows searches by the general public as way of ensuring the public is aware of the activities of lobbyists.

I am pleased to say that I have joined a busy office which has both the privilege of and responsibility for administering the Conflicts of Interest Act and the Lobbyists Act. We deal with a variety of issues, many of which are both complex and sensitive.

Given these responsibilities, we have been considering our work with a view to ensuring we are doing it in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Finally, I would like to thank the team I work with on a daily basis. They are dedicated, knowledgeable and experienced professionals who take seriously the responsibility we have been given. They have been of great assistance in helping me in my first few months in my role as Ethics Commissioner.

Shawn McLeod

Ethics Commissioner of Alberta

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 the purpose of the Act:

WHEREAS the ethical conduct of elected officials is expected in democracies;

WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly can serve Albertans most effectively if they come from a spectrum of occupations and continue to participate actively in the community;

WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly are expected to perform their duties of office and arrange their private affairs in a manner that promotes public confidence and trust in the integrity of each Member, that maintains the Assembly’s dignity and that justifies the respect in which society holds the Assembly and its Members;

WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly, in reconciling their duties of office and their private interests, are expected to act with integrity and impartiality;

WHEREAS Ministers and their staff must avoid conduct that violates the public trust or creates an appearance of impropriety;

WHEREAS the senior officials, members and employees of public agencies are expected to act with integrity and impartiality and must avoid conduct that violates the public trust or creates a conflict of interest or apparent conflict of interest; and

WHEREAS the adoption of clear and consistent conflict of interest rules, post-employment restrictions and reporting duties will promote these aims;

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 preamble to the *Lobbyists Act* sets out the purposes of the Act:

WHEREAS free and open access to government is an important matter of public interest; and

WHEREAS lobbying public office holders is a legitimate activity; and

WHEREAS it is desirable that the public and public office holders be able to know who is engaged in lobbying activities; and

WHEREAS a system for the registration of paid lobbyists should not impede free and open access to government; and

WHEREAS it is desirable that the public and public office holders be able to 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, 21 warning letters and 6 administrative penalties were assessed.

Disclosure statements include information about the Member, Designated Office Holder, Designated Senior Official or political staff, spouses or adult interdependent partners and minor children. Required disclosure includes information on all assets, including ownership of publicly traded securities, all liabilities, and financial interests in any private corporation where they are a 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 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.

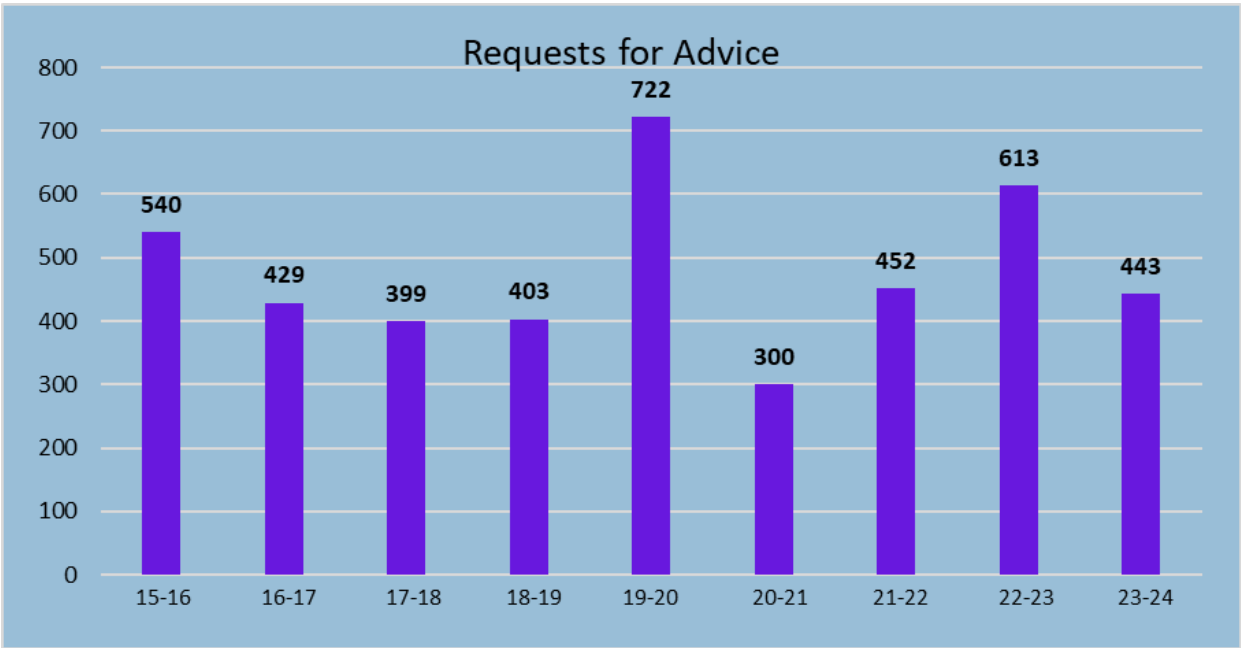
Number of individuals who were late in submitting all disclosure information

Category of Filer:	Compliance:
Members of the Legislative Assembly	14 late filing warning letters were issued
	5 MLA was issued an administrative penalty (one filed as a judgement)
Designated Office Holders	1 late filing warning letter was issued
	0 DOHs were issued an administrative penalty
Political Staff	3 late filing warning letters were issued
	1 political staff member was issued an administrative penalty
Designated Senior Officials	3 late filing warning letters were issued
	0 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 2023-24



Breakdown of Requests for Advice

Types of Advice	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-2023	2023-2024
Gifts	407	61	200	276	217
Post-Employment	90	24	87	166	125
Outside Activities	41	39	19	23	28
Investments	54	59	54	58	13
Family	15	9	6	19	7
Constituency Issues	5	4	5	7	6
Codes of Conduct	6	10	4	5	2
Contracts with the Crown	2	5	4	1	0
Taking Part in Decisions	19	24	5	8	11
Conflicts of Interest/Other	48	38	28	21	12
Reviewing SO Appointments	20	5	12	12	8
Concurrent Employment	15	22	28	17	14
Total	722	300	452	613	443

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 and report certain gifts (see the brochure entitled “Guide to Fees, Gifts and Other Benefits Nov 2024”) located on our website at: <https://www.ethicscommissioner.ab.ca/publications/ethics-bulletins/> . They need to be mindful of the 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 the 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 sometimes 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.

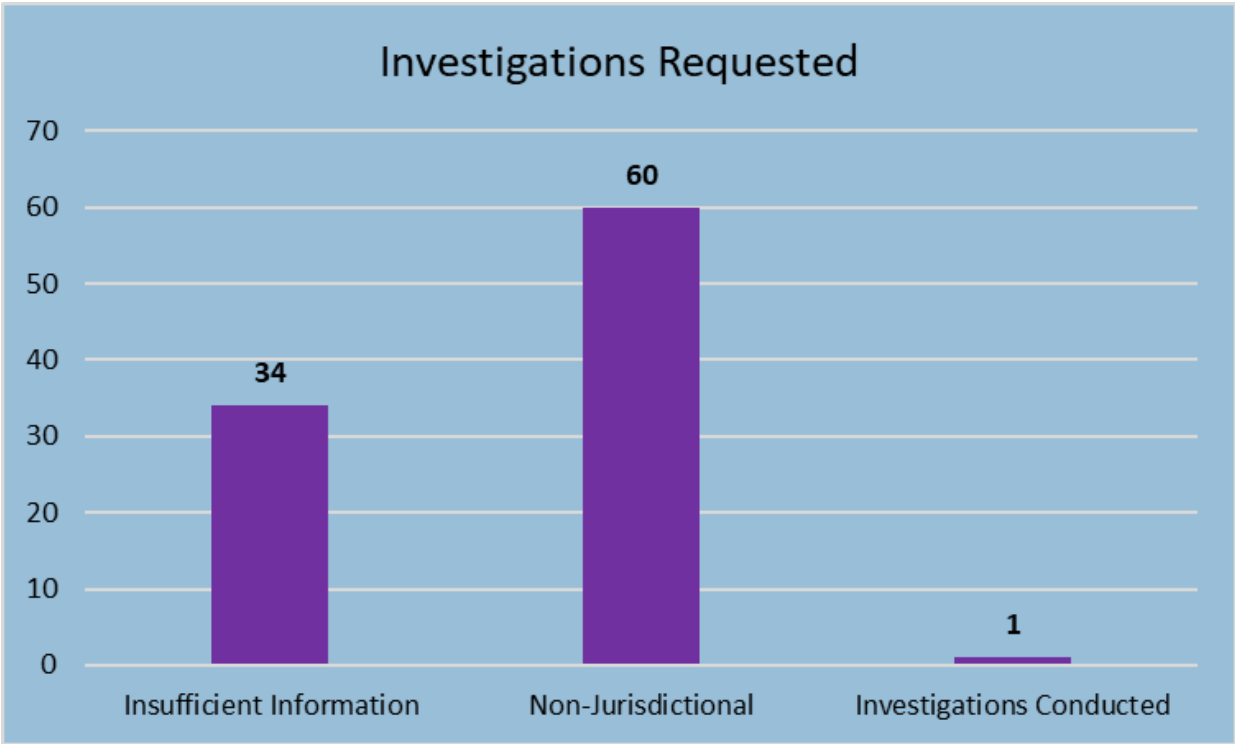
Concurrent Employment

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 14 requests for concurrent employment approval made by Designated Senior Officials in 2023-2024.

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 2023-2024 Total: 95 (up from 68)



Of the 95 requests for investigation, the Office of the Ethics Commissioner found that the Office did not have jurisdiction, or insufficient information was provided to warrant an investigation, in 94 of the requests. There was one investigation completed this year. 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 28 requests for information this year, up from 23 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	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-2024
Advice	722	300	452	613	443
Investigations	437	138	85	68	95
Information	35	50	23	28	52
Total	1194	488	560	709	590

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 three (3) new agencies, approved amendments to 20 existing Codes of Conduct and provided advice regarding Codes of Conduct on at least 25 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 2023-24 audited financial statements are located on the Office of the Ethics Commissioner website: <http://www.ethicscommissioner.ab.ca/publications/annual-reports/>.

	2021-22 Budget	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Actual
Salaries	\$745,500	\$702,630	\$789,000	\$783,200	\$789,000	\$829,749
Supplies and Expenses	\$186,500	\$123,923	\$186,500	\$121,369	\$210,500	\$140,135
Capital Acquisitions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	\$932,000	\$826,553	\$975,500	\$904,569	\$999,500	\$969,884
Unexpended Budget Allocation	n/a	\$105,447	n/a	\$70,931	n/a	\$29,616

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 the Canadian Conflicts of Interest Network conference and the Lobbyists Registrars and Commissioners Network conference in 2023.

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 (Whistleblower Protection) Act* during the fiscal 2023-24 reporting year.

LOBBYISTS ACT AND REGISTRY UPDATE

REGISTRAR'S MESSAGE

The 2023-2024 fiscal year was Josh de Groot's first full fiscal year as the Lobbyist Registrar for Alberta after starting in the role in late April 2022.

As shown in the Statistical Year in Review below, the Lobbyist Registry saw modest growth in registrations, consistent with recent years. Requests for guidance and assistance with using the Lobbyist Registry were also largely consistent with recent years. Lobbyists are encouraged to continue to reach out to this office for any guidance or assistance that is required.

Enforcement and compliance activity was reduced in the 2023-2024 year. No formal investigations were conducted. Two administrative penalties were issued for a total of \$600.00 this year, after issuing four administrative penalties for a total of \$3,350.00 the previous year.

The *Lobbyists Act* and its regulations were not amended during this year. However, a revised Guidance Document regarding Prohibited Gifts from Lobbyists was issued in January 2024 following amendments to the *Conflicts of Interest Act*.

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.

This year, the Lobbyist Registrar received and addressed at least 191 requests for information or guidance about the interpretation and application of the *Lobbyists Act* and at least 697 requests for assistance with using the Lobbyist Registry application and website. 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 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:

- updated the FAQ on the Lobbyist Registry website;
- created and added new FAQ to the Lobbyist Registry website;
- updated the question text and help icon content in registration and request forms in the Lobbyist Registry application;
- reviewed and updated existing guidance documents on the Lobbyist Registry website;

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 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. The main goal of these inquiries is to ensure that lobbyists and potential lobbyists are in compliance with the legislation. However, these inquiries are also 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.

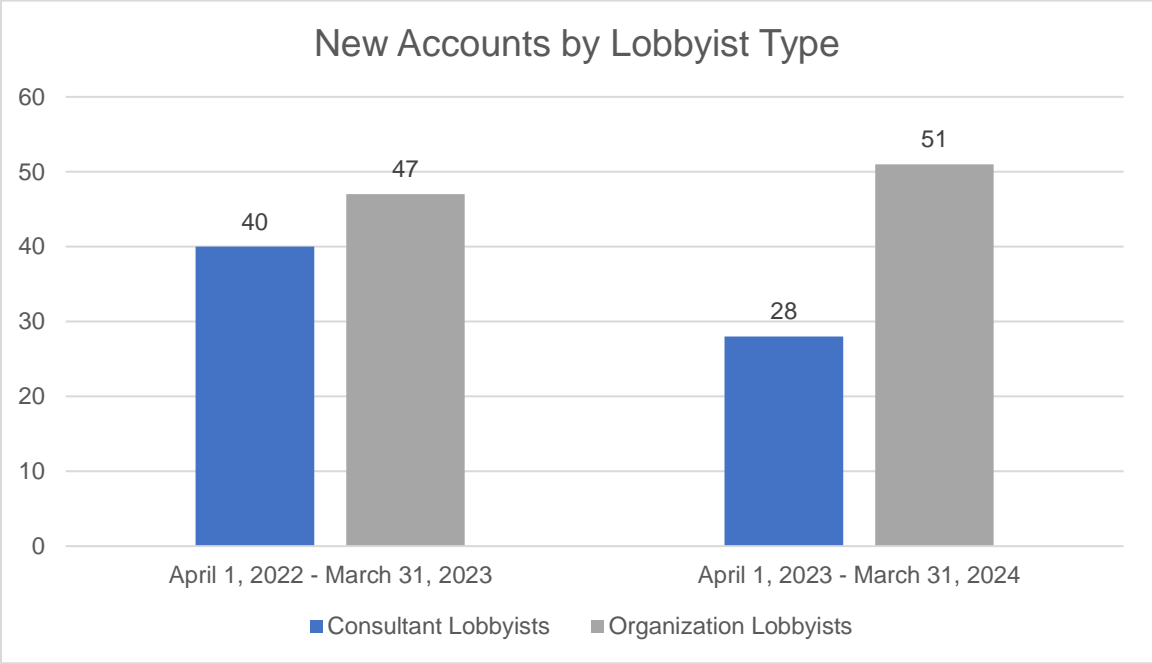
The Lobbyist Registrar issued the following four administrative penalties this year totaling \$600.00:

- An administrative penalty of \$300.00 was issued to the designated filer of an organization lobbyist for a failure to comply with the obligation to file the organization's semi-annual renewal return by the legislative deadline. The designated filer had a history of non-compliance with the registration deadlines; and
- An administrative penalty of \$300.00 was issued to the designated filer of an organization lobbyist for a failure to comply with the obligation to file the organization's semi-annual renewal return by the legislative deadline. The designated filer had a history of non-compliance with the registration deadlines.

STATISTICAL YEAR IN REVIEW

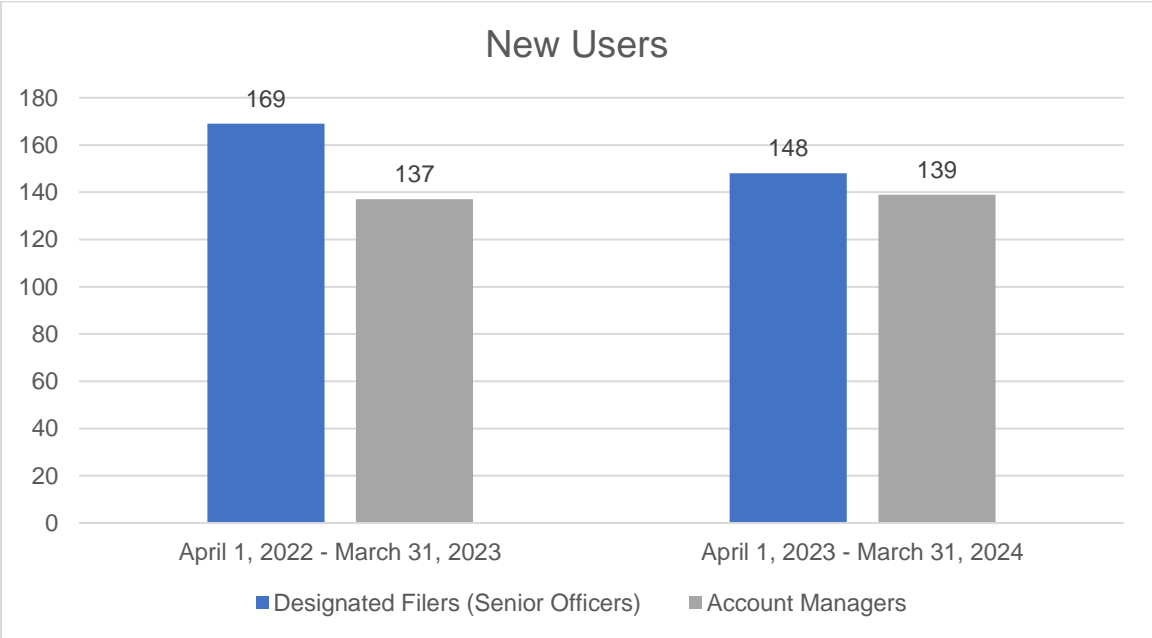
New Accounts by Lobbyist Type between April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

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.



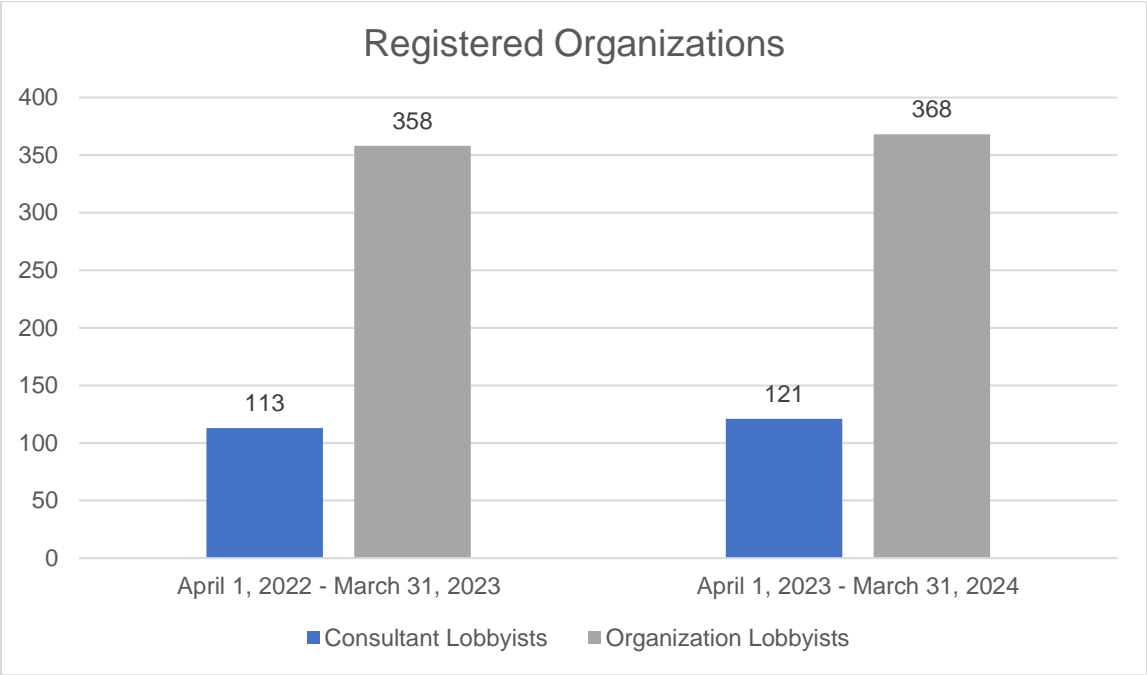
New Users between April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

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.



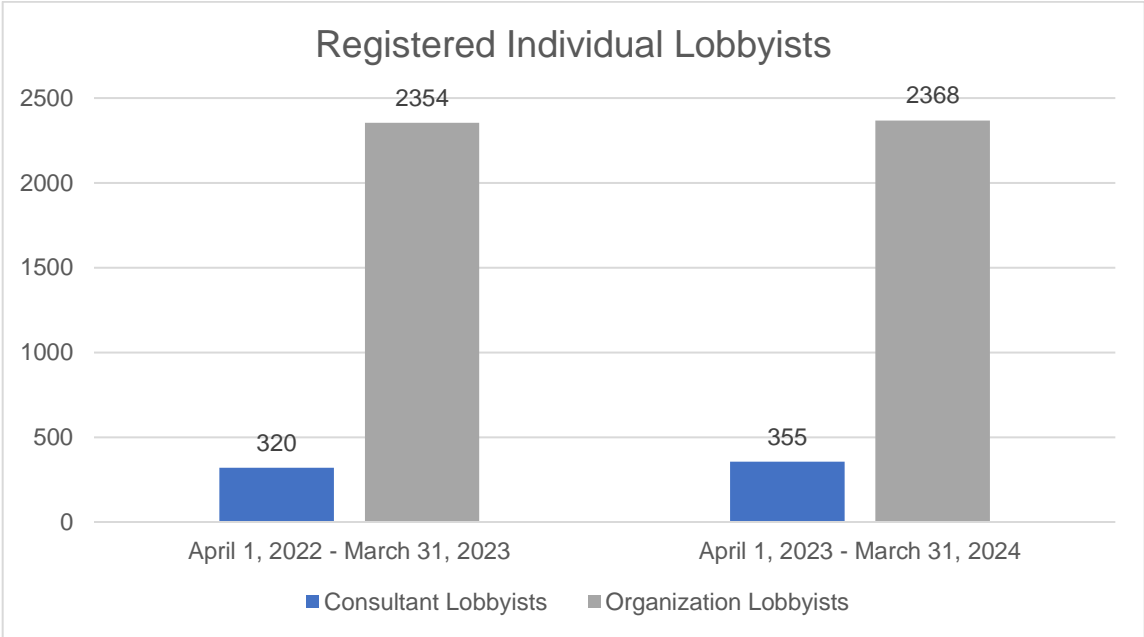
Registered Organizations by Lobbyist Type as of March 31, 2024

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.



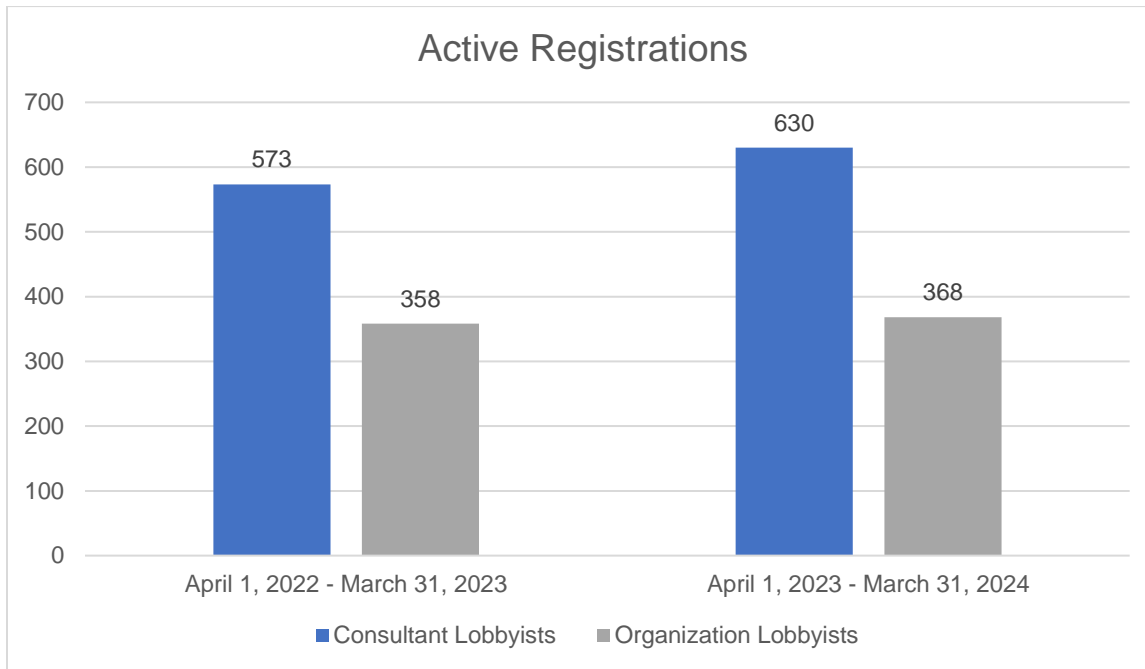
Registered Individual Lobbyists by Lobbyist Type as of March 31, 2024

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



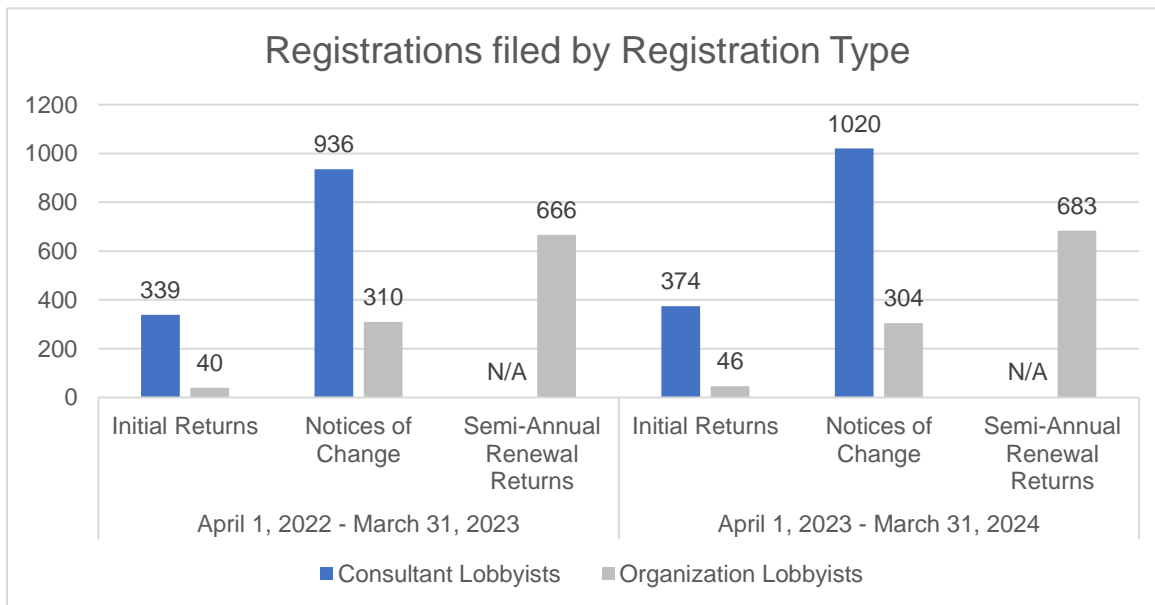
Active Registrations by Lobbyist Type as of March 31, 2024

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.



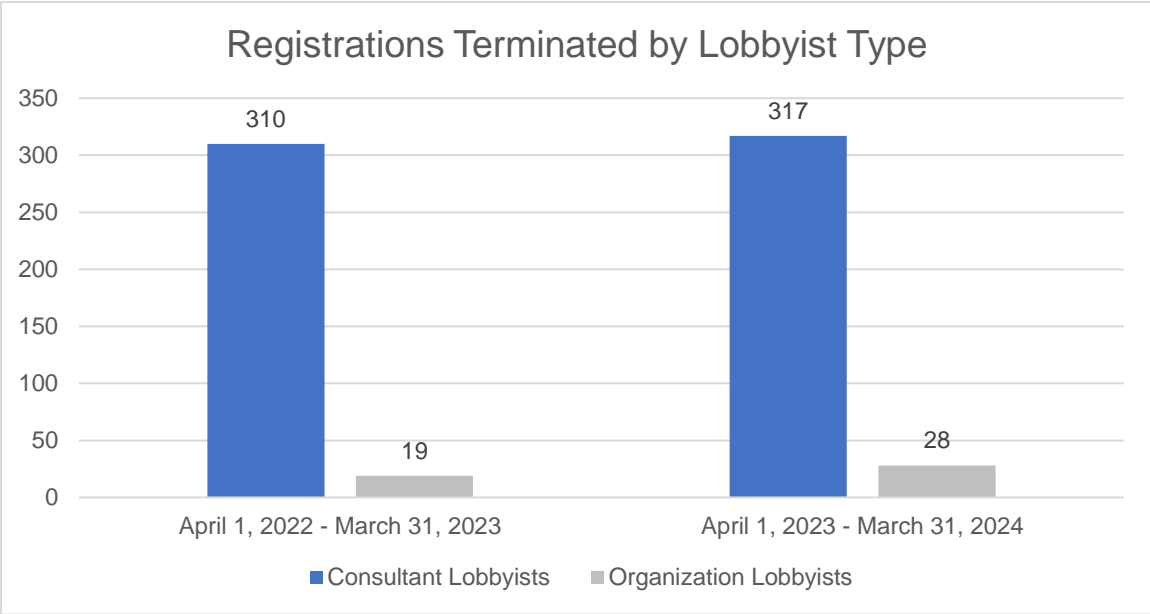
Registrations Filed between April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

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.



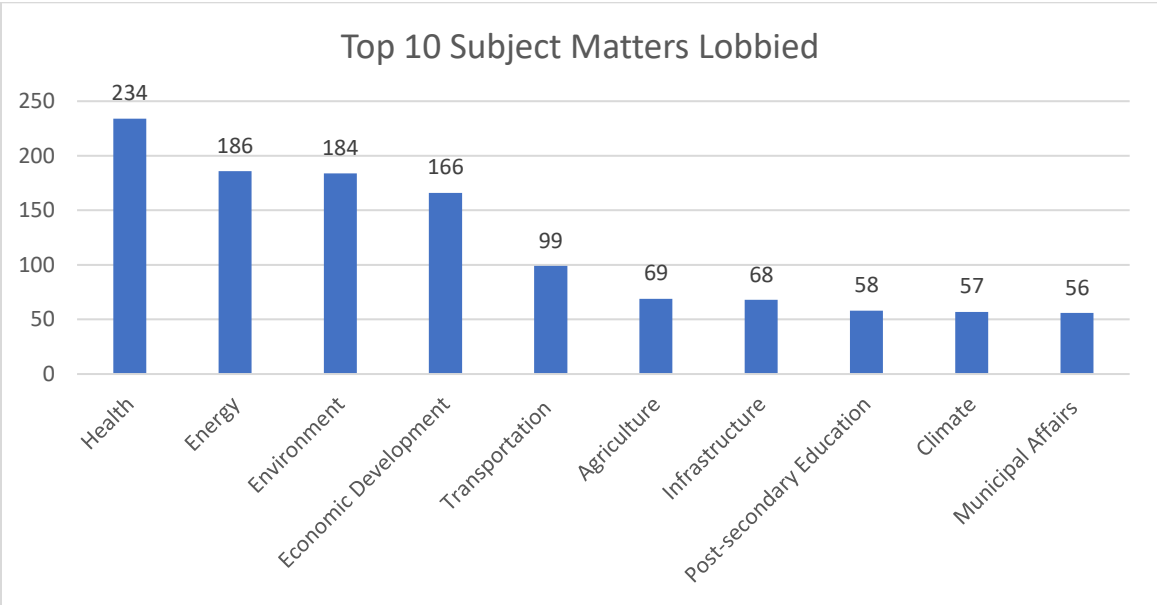
Registrations Terminated between April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

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



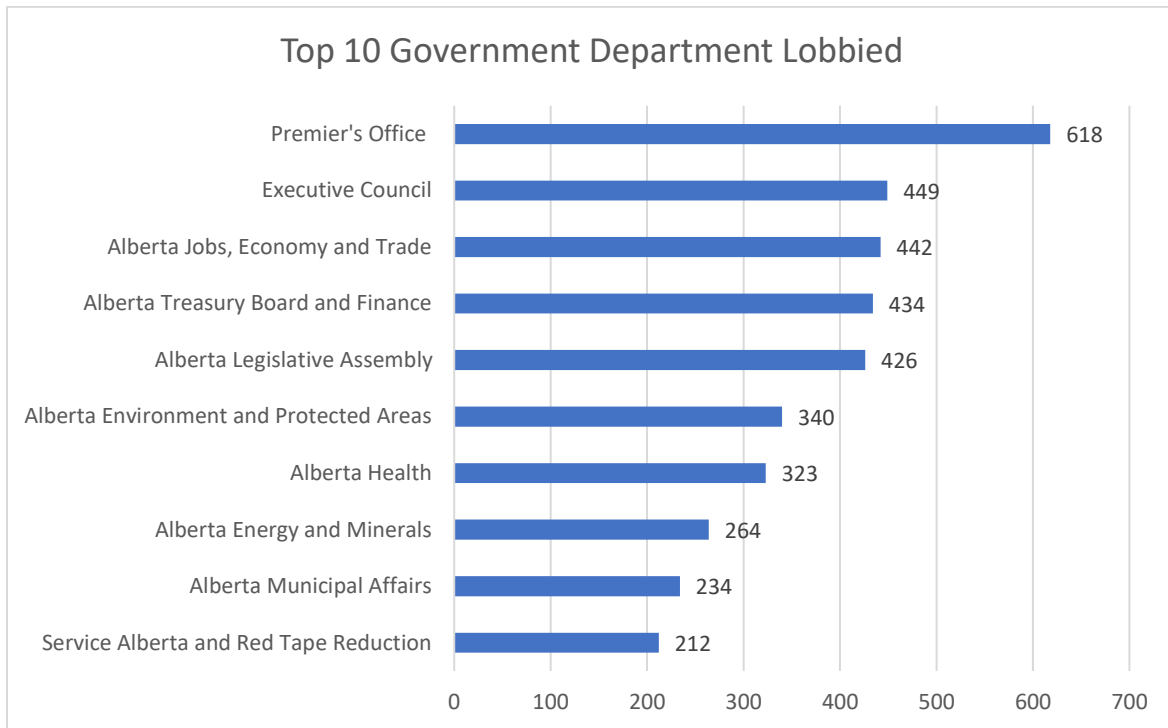
Active Registrations by Subject Matter as of March 31, 2024

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



Active Registrations by Government Departments Lobbied as of March 31, 2024

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



Active Registrations by Prescribed Provincial Entities Lobbied as of March 31, 2024

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

