



300 Dufferin Avenue
P.O. Box 5035
London, ON
N6A 4L9

London
CANADA

October 10 2023

Dear Colleagues

We find ourselves in a dynamic environment. London is one of Canada's fastest growing cities, and we are simultaneously developing and initiating many programs that are integral to our direction and vision for our future. Further, we are also navigating new landscape by the province in its push to create more housing. As we grow, the city must adapt to position itself to ensure our services and governance are able to function as intended. We have already initiated such efforts and have been successful from our work on Governance Working Group.

We believe a key piece, a city our size and magnitude in operation should, with the goal of bringing the public a new window into the functioning of how we operate, introduce a public lobby registry and registrar.

In Ontario, the [Municipal Act, 2001](#) authorizes municipalities to establish lobbying registries. We have identified 10 municipalities in Ontario who provide a form of Municipal Lobbying registries and/or registrars.

- [Toronto Lobbyist Registrar](#)
- [Peel Region Lobbyist Registry](#)
- [Ottawa Lobbyist Registry](#)
- [Brampton Lobbyist Registry and Gift Registry](#)
- [Hamilton Lobbyist Registry](#)
- [Niagara Region Lobbying Registry](#)
- [Vaughn Lobbyist Registry](#)
- [Burlington Lobbyist Registry](#)
- [Pickering Lobbyist Registry](#)
- [Collingwood Lobbyist Registry](#)

Lobbying is a legitimate activity and well within the rights of individuals and parties to do. It is meant to be value-neutral and is intended to be done with the benefit of the public in mind. And, like the Federal and Provincial governments along with municipalities across the country who recognize the legitimate, value-neutral benefits lobbying can bring, they also understand that tools of transparency must apply to strengthen the public trust and enhance the level of service we provide as Council in our governance.

Our decision making is entrusted by the people who elect us to represent them. Transparency ensures that government actions and decisions are made openly, allowing citizens to see, understand, and question the processes and outcomes of their government. In order to foster trust between the people and their representatives and increase engagement and voter turnout, we need to open the doors to the public in how we operate. Council should provide an accessible record of people who lobby public office holders outside of public forums. We've heard from Londoners that they want to know who council is meeting with and how we're making decisions. The establishment of a lobby registry and registrar will create the mechanisms so the public can rightfully understand our work outside of public forums.

A city council that establishes a registry and ensures that it is strictly enforced is one that demonstrates transparency and reaffirms democratic values. As such, we are seeking your consideration and support for the following motion:



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That Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to conduct a review and present a report on the feasibility, purpose, and associated expenses of implementing a mandatory municipal lobbyist registry. The review should encompass the establishment of a publicly accessible electronic portal for tracking lobbying activities within the municipality, the appointment of a registrar responsible for overseeing the registry, registration rules, potential exemptions, penalties, fines, enforcement mechanisms, and general provisions related to lobbying regulations.

Respectfully,

David Ferreira
City Councillor, Ward 13

Skylar Franke
City Councillor, Ward 11