



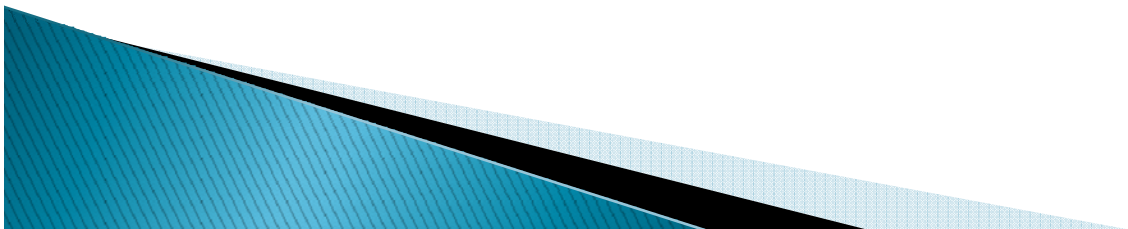
The Lobbying Act: legislative review

GRIC recommendations

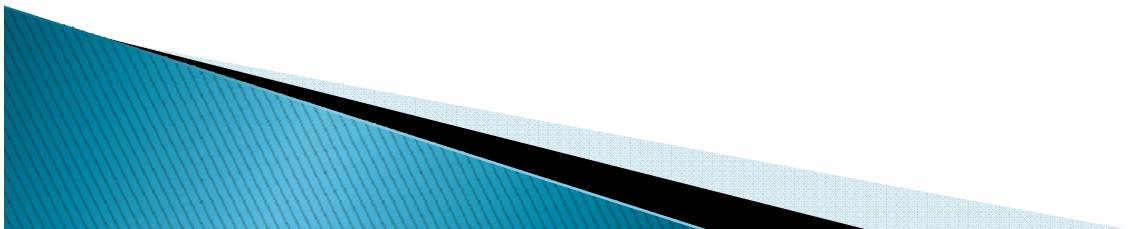
October 25 2011

Lobbying Act objective: increase transparency of communications between lobbyists and government

The Lobbying Act result: muddy and confuse the ground rules under which lobbyists operate and under which public office holders relate to lobbyists



GRIC consulted widely and developed a comprehensive, consensus-based submission to the ETHI Committee, based on five core recommendations



The Commissioner's duty to educate public office holders in section 4.2 of the Act should be more comprehensive

If Public Office Holders do not respect the spirit or letter of the Act, the Commissioner should be empowered to step in and recommend corrective action

The definition of “Officer responsible for filing returns” in section 7(6) should be revised

The most senior officer with responsibility for lobbying should be permitted to file initial and monthly returns. All lobbyists in the meeting should be named on the monthly return.

The restrictions on lobbying set out in section 10.11(1) should be revised:

20% rule should be removed for in-house corporate lobbyists who are former DPOHs.

Oral and Arranged Communications

The definitions of “oral and arranged” communications set out in the Lobbyist Registration Regulations should be clarified

OCL should launch a formal consultation process to establish a clear and workable definition of “oral and arranged” communications

Rule 8 of the Lobbyists Code of Conduct

Rule 8 of the *Lobbyists Code of Conduct* should be replaced with language that mirrors relevant sections of existing legislation governing political activities and conflict of interest

Responsibility for adjudicating that section of the Code should be delegated to the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner

The Commissioner should be specifically empowered to issue advance rulings

GRIC's objectives

Clear rules, applied fairly and equally
to everyone

