

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PROPOSAL

The recommendations contained in this report should not be looked upon as a general panacea to the public's concern that paid lobbyists and friends of the Government, regardless of the political party in power, are secretly receiving preferential treatment. These recommendations when implemented will result in more information to be made available to the public. This should result in a more informed public and thereby should benefit the public disclosure is central to the operation of democratic government. A public record is created which will be open for all to scrutinize.

In making these recommendations we have addressed ourselves to the "guiding principles" which are set forth in the government's discussion paper. We believe the system we have recommended creates an open system of disclosure, clearly establishes the criteria for those who are to register, and should be fairly simple to deal with from an administrative perspective. In making these recommendations we have had to deal with two budgeting principles. We did not want to interfere with the public's access to government while at the same time we wished to have disclosure of activities from the lobbying sector. We feel we have achieved a balance between these two principles in our requirements for registration and disclosure. During our discussions concerning information which should be required from lobbyists, it was suggested that both lobbyists and those who are the subject of lobbying activities - particularly public servants and Cabinet Ministers - be required to keep a list of contacts and the subject matter of those contacts. There is great concern about Members of Parliament with regard to the origin of some pieces of legislation and subsequent amendments, as reports are provided with little information on the sources which brought the legislative