

reading and sent to the Senate, where it was studied by the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs and then passed without amendment on 8 September 1988. On 13 September 1988, the bill was given Royal Assent and, on 30 September 1989, the *Lobbyists Registration Act* came into force.

The Evolution and Perception of Lobbying in the Canadian System of Government

The word "lobby" has a long history in Canada, and its meaning has evolved over time. In the early days, it referred to the group of people who gathered in the corridors of the House of Commons to influence the government. Today, the term has become much broader and includes a wide range of activities and individuals.

One of the main reasons for the growth of lobbying in Canada is the increasing complexity of government policy development. As the government has become more involved in social and economic issues, it has become more dependent on the expertise and advice of outside groups. This has led to a proliferation of lobbying organizations and individuals.

Another reason for the growth of lobbying is the increasing transparency of the government process. In the past, government decisions were often made behind closed doors. Today, however, there is a greater emphasis on public participation and transparency. This has led to a greater awareness of the role of lobbyists in the government process.

Finally, the growth of lobbying in Canada is also due to the increasing power of interest groups. As these groups have become more organized and more vocal, they have been able to exert a greater influence on the government. This has led to a greater reliance on lobbying as a means of influencing government policy.

One of the main challenges facing the government in the future will be to ensure that the lobbying process is fair and transparent. This will require a number of reforms, including the implementation of a lobbyist registration system and the strengthening of conflict of interest rules.

Another challenge will be to ensure that the government remains accountable to the public. This will require a number of reforms, including the implementation of a public access to information act and the strengthening of the ombudsman's powers.