

We are concerned that those involved in non-profit organizations will
 consider any attempt to make them register as lobbying activities as being an attempt to inhibit their activities. On the other hand, if
 they are not required to register, it may leave a great loophole in the system
 which could be filled by those who do not want to have their lobbying efforts
 become part of the public record.

We have concluded that volunteer associations, single interest groups,
 and non-profit associations would not generally be required to register as
 lobbyists at this time. We realize that this decision eliminates a large portion
 of the lobbying population from the requirement of registration but we feel
 justified in making this determination at this time. We are concerned that a
 requirement such as registration may have a chilling or deterrent effect on their
 ability to organize and communicate effectively with government. However, when
 this matter is reviewed in two years' time, experience may indicate that these
 groups should be required to register.

Another question which has given your committee some difficulty is
 whether lawyers or accountants who represent clients in dealings with the
 government should be considered as lobbyists and required to register. Are these
 professionals who represent clients before either the legislative or judicial
 tribunals engaged in lobbying? They are representing clients in judicial or
 quasi-judicial proceedings which and almost always held in public and we should
 be required to identify their clients. We do not consider these activities to be
 acts of a lobbyist nature. This should be contrasted with professionals who
 represent their clients in a much less public manner for the purpose of influencing
 public policy or governmental activity.

We recommend that for the purpose of registration, lobbyist
 be defined generally to be anyone who for compensation
 engages in lobbying activities described in the executive
 summary, members of the House of Commons, the Senate and
 their staff. More specifically it includes