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Export date: Sun Sep 6 23:57:28 2026 / +0000 GMT

Caledon Council implements lobbyist registry

Lobbyist registrar will be appointed to provide transparency about

individuals, organizations who lobby public office holders

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Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Lobbying in the Town of Caledon will now be more transparent.

At Caledon Council's February 25 meeting, Councillors unanimously supported a bylaw that establishes a lobbyist registry for the Town.

Ward 3 Councillor Doug Maskell said he wanted to thank Town staff and members of Caledon's Governance Review Committee for their work in setting up the lobbyist registry.

?I think this is a significant moment in Caledon? I think we're the 16th municipality across the Province to adopt one of these, I think it's great practice,? said Maskell. ?There's a lot of talk about openness and transparency and I think this is a great opportunity for us to demonstrate that as a council going forward.?

Once implemented, Caledon's lobbyist registry will be available for viewing online.

A lobbyist registrar will be appointed to oversee and maintain the lobbyist registry; according to the bylaw implemented, Caledon's Town Clerk will be appointed as the registrar unless someone else is appointed.

In Caledon's lobbyist registry bylaw, there are three types of lobbyists: consultant lobbyists, individuals who lobby for payment on behalf of a client; in-house lobbyists, individuals who are employees, partners or sole proprietors and lobby on behalf of their own employer, business or other entity; and voluntary unpaid lobbyists, individuals who lobby without payment on behalf of an individual, business or any other for-profit entity for the benefit of the interests of the individual, business or for-profit entity.

In the bylaw, lobbying is defined as follows: ?any communication with a public office holder not otherwise exempted under Part 5 of this By-law by an individual who represents a business or financial interest with the goal of trying to influence any legislative action including development, introduction, passage, defeat, amendment or repeal of a bylaw, motion, resolution, or the outcome of a decision on any matter before Council, a Committee of Council, or a staff member acting under delegated authority.?

Caledon's new lobbyist registry bylaw is known officially as By-law No. 2025-010 and can be found in its entirety on the Town of Caledon's website, caledon.ca.