



Notice no. 2004-01

15 October 2004

This notice is issued and published by the Lobbyists Commissioner pursuant to section 52 of the *Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act* (R.S.Q., c.T-11.011).

Subject : Interpretation of the expression “other financial benefit” used in subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph of section 2 of the *Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act*.

Web site : www.commissairelobby.qc.ca

The first paragraph of section 2 of the *Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act* (“the Act”) provides that “[a]ny oral or written communication with a public office holder in an attempt to influence or that may reasonably be considered by the initiator of the communication as capable of influencing a decision concerning (...) the awarding (...) of any grant or **other financial benefit** or the granting of any other form of benefit determined by government regulation (...) constitutes lobbying or a lobbying activity within the meaning of this Act.”

The expression “other financial benefit” here includes any form of financial assistance granted by a public authority to which the Act applies, particularly by means of a loan, a loan guarantee or a surety contract.

The expression, however, does not include a benefit paid to a natural person. For example, indemnities paid by the Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CSST), indemnities paid by the Société de l’assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ), compensation paid to victims of crime (IVAC), hunting accidents or immunization, family allowances and last resort financial assistance benefits are not covered by subparagraph 3 of the first paragraph of section 2. Nor are student loans or training benefits.

However, the Government does have the power to determine by regulation other forms of benefits in respect of which decisions are capable of being influenced within the meaning of the first paragraph of section 2, but has not done so to this day.

André C. Côté
Lobbyists Commissioner