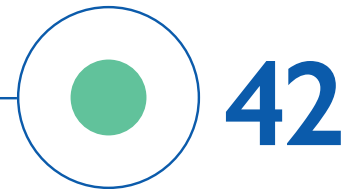


# Canada



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### I. Industry Participation in Policy Development

There are no restrictions on tobacco industry (TI) engagement in policy development. Health Canada regularly invites policy proposals from all parties, including the TI, and has accepted TI recommendations for delayed implementation of regulations and policies on several occasions.

The Federal Lobbyist Registry shows that the TI is currently engaging with at least 15 departments, agencies, and institutions, including Health Canada, the Canada Revenue Agency, Finance Canada, the Treasury Board, Canada Border Services, Public Safety Canada, Global Affairs Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, the House of Commons, and the Senate.

### 2. Industry CSR Activities

The federal government's two-year collaboration with Philip Morris on its flagship COVID-19 vaccine drew strong criticism from the global tobacco control community, social and news media commentators, and Members of Parliament. Following this controversy, the government enacted new guidelines on TI interference in December 2024, initially promised by the Minister of Health in 2016.

### 3. Benefits to the Industry

It is not uncommon for Canadian governments to postpone the implementation of tobacco control laws, especially when under pressure from the TI or its allies. For example, the implementation of proposed federal regulations to restrict flavored vaping products has been delayed for more than four years after repeated lobbying by TI and vaping companies. The regulations remain unadopted.

### 4. Unnecessary Interaction

The new TI guidance applies only to federal public service staff. It does not apply to Members of Parliament, Senators, parliamentary staff, or Crown corporations such as the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, nor does it apply to subnational governments. The Federal Lobbyist Registry reports numerous ongoing meetings between TI lobbyists and government officials, which may include social and public functions.

There is no federal directory or repository of TI companies and related actors, apart from standard reporting under the Lobbyist Act and the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act. A conflict-of-interest form is provided to potential industry actors when TI involvement is suspected. However, without a public repository of TI actors, it remains difficult for officials to identify possible conflicts.



## 5. Transparency

Despite the new TI interference guidelines, restrictions on meetings with the TI are limited to the federal Department of Health and do not apply to other ministries, agencies, or institutions such as Finance, Trade, Agriculture, Economic Development, or Parliament.

Under the Lobbyists Act, all registered lobbyists must disclose the subject matter of their activities, including tobacco, nicotine, and vaping. However, the new TI guidance does not include disclosure requirements. The Lobbyist Registration Act requires all TI lobbyists, including consultants, to register, but there are no special restrictions on their activities beyond the general provisions of the Act. TI-sponsored or affiliated organizations are not required to report their funding sources or commercial alliances.

## 6. Conflict of Interest

In its reports to the FCTC Secretariat since 2010, Canada has identified only one measure consistent with recommendations: banning donations to political campaigns. This prohibition applies to all corporations, trade unions, and NGOs, not only TI companies. There are no specific rules guiding public office holders in accepting positions with TI companies, beyond those applicable to other industries.

## 7. Preventive Measures

In December 2024, the government enacted new guidelines on TI interference. These advise federal public servants to refrain from engaging with TI entities on potential corporate social responsibility (CSR) campaigns and recommend against accepting gifts or contributions from the TI.

However, the guidelines lack monitoring, reporting, or enforcement mechanisms, and impose no penalties for infractions beyond those covered under existing laws or policies.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enforce federal restrictions on the commercial tobacco and non-therapeutic nicotine industries without further delay, ensuring lobbying activities do not obstruct or weaken policy adoption and compliance.
2. Implement disclosure and transparency requirements in federal guidance (or through related regulations) covering all TI activities, including lobbying, investments, philanthropy, and political contributions.
3. Establish a clear code of conduct for public servants to prevent interactions with the TI. This policy should include monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, along with penalties for infractions. Alternatively, amend the existing federal public service code of conduct to explicitly prohibit TI interactions.
4. Provide a robust, open-access national repository of TI actors and activities to support implementation of the TI interference guidelines.
5. Raise awareness of TI interference among all 350,000 federal public servants, including at hiring and through regular training sessions.