



News Release

For Immediate Release
August 6, 2026

Notice to the Legal Professions: Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act Comes into Force

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada is advising legal professionals that the federal [Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act \(FITAA\)](#) and its associated [Regulations](#) came into force on August 4, 2026.

The FITAA establishes a public registry requiring certain persons and organizations that enter into arrangements with foreign principals to register information with the Office of the Foreign Influence Commissioner of Canada. The regime applies to activities carried out under the direction of, or in association with, a foreign principal that relate to political or governmental processes in Canada.

The Office of the Foreign Influence Commissioner of Canada has issued an [interpretation bulletin](#) outlining how the foreign influence transparency regime applies to licensed legal professionals. The bulletin states that: “providing advice, which is subject to solicitor-client privilege, to a foreign principal is not considered an influence activity under FITAA.” Similarly, the bulletin states that representing a foreign principal during a judicial or private proceeding does not trigger a registration requirement.

The interpretation bulletin provides guidance on:

Legal services: Legal representation in judicial and private proceedings and the provision of legal advice do not generally constitute influence activities requiring registration under the FITAA.

Registerable activities: Legal professionals should assess whether activities undertaken on behalf of a foreign principal fall within FITAA’s definition of an influence activity, including certain communications with public office holders or activities related to political or governmental processes.

Professional obligations: Legal professionals should continue to consider their professional obligations, including confidentiality and solicitor-client privilege, when determining how the regime may apply in specific circumstances.

The Federation is sharing this information to support legal professionals in understanding the application of the new regime while continuing to uphold their professional responsibilities.

The interpretation bulletin and additional information about the regime are available [here](#).

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada is the national association of the 14 law societies mandated by the provinces and territories to regulate Canada's legal profession in the public interest. It is the body through which Canada's law societies collaborate at the national level, share information on trends and issues affecting the legal profession, and engage in collective action and decision making.

The Federation is also the law societies' national and international voice on important issues related to the regulation and core values of the legal profession. For more information on the Federation, please visit our web site at www.flsc.ca.

For more information about this release, please contact:

Giulia Doyle

Senior Director of Communications
Federation of Law Societies of Canada
gdoyle@flsc.ca



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