
Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act (FITAA): Key Definitions Explained

The *Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act* promote transparency of foreign influence activities in Canada through establishment of the [Office of the Foreign Influence Commissioner of Canada](#) and the creation of a public registry of activities called the Foreign Influence Transparency Registry (FITR).

FITR requires information about the foreign principal acting to influence Canada's political or governmental processes, and details of the activities under the arrangement to be disclosed. This resource aims to define keywords and terms related to FITAA to support the UCalgary community. **UCalgary members are encouraged to contact the FITR Compliance Unit at fitr@ucalgary.ca for support with questions.**

Arrangement: An agreement (does not need to be a written contract) where all the following three elements apply:

- 1) A Canadian individual or organization acts at the direction of or in association with a foreign principal;
- 2) They conduct influence activities; and
- 3) The activities are related to a Canadian political or governmental process.

Foreign Principal: A foreign state, government, power, or entity. Examples may include foreign national governments, state owned enterprises, educational institutions, not-for-profit organizations, charity groups, and others. This can also be an individual who is acting as an official representative of a foreign principal.

Influence Activities: Actions conducted by a Canadian individual or organization in association with a foreign principal related to a political or governmental process. FITAA identifies the following categories:

- a) Communication with a public office holder;
- b) Communication or dissemination information related to the political/governmental process; or
- c) Providing or distributing benefits/resources (i.e. money, items of value, services, or use of facilities).

Political and governmental processes: The following types of governmental or electoral activities conducted in Canada:

- a) Proceedings of a legislative body (i.e. Parliament, provincial legislatures, etc.);
- b) Development of a legislative proposal (creating or influencing proposed laws);
- c) Development or amendment of governmental policies/programs;
- d) Decisions made by public office holders/government bodies;
- e) Holding of an election or referendum; or
- f) Nomination of a political party candidate or developing electoral platforms.

Public Office Holder: Individuals in Canada who hold positions at any level of government (federal, provincial, territorial, or municipal), including representatives of Indigenous communities. This can include a member of the Senate/House of Commons, public servants, councilors, mayors, officers of crown corporations, members of the Canadian Armed Forces/Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and others.