Public Policy

Policy dialogue and participation improves our ability to understand and address critical issues, and to make strategic decisions that benefit our stakeholders. Public policy discussions can also be directly relevant to the evolving legislative and regulatory requirements under which Manulife and our financial services products are governed.

Direct engagement
Certain employees engage with government or regulatory officials as part of their roles, and we are committed to high ethical standards in these relationships. We maintain policies, such as the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, to keep the confidence of our customers, investors and other stakeholders with respect to this engagement. For example, our policies stipulate that any lobbying efforts on issues affecting our business must be done in compliance with all local lobbying regulations, including Canada’s Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act and Lobbying Act, and with all local reporting requirements.

We recognize that we must take special care to use our corporate positions responsibly when dealing with government agencies and representatives. Unless it is a routine regulatory or government interaction (e.g., regular exam, regulatory filing, or response to a request for information), any contact with a government official must be approved by the business segment’s Chief Legal Officer and the Global Head, Regulatory and Public Affairs. Employees must not engage in lobbying activities on behalf of the company unless specific authorization is obtained.

Political contributions
Our company’s general policy is that we will not make any political contributions. In the U.S., federal law prohibits corporations from contributing to candidates; however, it does allow corporations to establish Political Action Committees (PACs), funded by voluntary contributions from eligible employees. The John Hancock Political Action Committee (JHPAC) is organized by employees of John Hancock and its subsidiaries. It is a voluntary association of individuals formed in order to make their collective voice heard in the political process. Because corporations are permitted to pay the administrative costs of a PAC, every dollar contributed to JHPAC is distributed to candidates for elected office. An overview of the JHPAC is available on the Federal Election Committee website. John Hancock does not operate or contribute to any “Super PACs” and does not operate any PACs at the state level.

Industry memberships
Certain organizations may have interactions with government officials on matters of interest to our industry and may promote public policy objectives important to us, our stakeholders or the broader community. Our membership in, or financial support of, these organizations does not imply that Manulife supports every position taken by these organizations or those of their other members. Where positions differ from ours, we voice concerns as appropriate by engaging with these organizations through boards, committees or publicly, as necessary.

The following is a list of key organizations or trade associations to which Manulife belongs or has an affiliation that may engage in lobbying governments and to which we currently pay membership fees:
- American Council of Life Insurers
- Business Council of Canada
- Canadian Bankers Association
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce
- Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association
- Global Business Alliance
- Investment Company Institute
- Institute of International Finance
- The Business Council (U.S.)
- Toronto Finance International