

ASTTBC Advocacy Policy

Policy Subject	ASTTBC Advocacy Policy
Policy Section	-
Policy Number	V1.0
Approving Authority	ASTTBC Board
Revision	
Approved Date	September 21, 2023
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Next Policy Review Date	

1.0 REASON FOR POLICY

- 1.1 This policy aims to demonstrate that ASTTBC is looking inwards and approaching advocacy in a way that ensures any ASTTBC activities that benefit, or may be perceived to benefit registrants, supports its regulatory functions and/or the public interest.
- 1.2 The Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (the OSPG) has published an Advocacy Activities Evaluation Framework¹ to assist *PGA* regulators in their compliance with section 22(3) of the *PGA* which states:
- 22(3) A regulatory body may only act in an advocacy role in accordance with the *Act* and in accordance with rules, conditions, or limits prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
- 1.3 It is the duty of ASTTBC to serve and protect the safety, health and well-being of the public and environment and to exercise its power and discharge its responsibilities under all enactments in the public interest under section 22 of the Professional Governance Act (“PGA”).
- 1.4 This policy is designed to advise ASTTBC staff, the Board, and committee members in ensuring any decisions are properly made based on the public interest and are in accordance with the general duties and responsibilities listed in section 22 of the *PGA* as well as ASTTBC’s mandate.

2.0 APPLICABILITY

- 2.1 This policy applies to:
- (a) ASTTBC staff, Board directors, committee members, volunteers, and others acting on behalf of ASTTBC, including those under contract to ASTTBC, and any qualified individual appointed to assist the Board or a committee in carrying out their statutory duties, all of whom are entrusted with powers, which they are to use in furtherance of ASTTBC’s mandate, duties, and object.

¹ [OSPG Guidance: Advocacy Activities Evaluation Framework](#)

- (b) A person occupying such a role has a duty to avoid engagements in which advocacy opportunities go against/or may be perceived to go against, this policy.

3.0 POLICY STATEMENTS

3.1 Definitions

3.1.1 For the purpose of this policy:

“Advocacy” is defined as any action that speaks in favour of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others. The intention of this document is that it is read in addition to ASTTBC’s Advocacy Guidelines as well as the OSPG Guidance on Advocacy Activities.

- 3.2. Generally, it is understood there is a limited amount of non-lobbying advocacy PGA regulators are allowed to perform through appropriate mechanisms as the OSPG Advocacy Activities Evaluation Framework is not intended to discourage a strong working relationship with government. However, government relations and public affairs (otherwise known as lobbying activities), are restricted and are not to be pursued.
- 3.3 When reviewing or developing new activities, ASTTBC must apply the Advocacy Activities Evaluation Framework in consideration of any activity that may constitute inappropriate advocacy, and if so, avoid it.
- 3.4 ASTTBC will review its current activities every two years to ensure they are in compliance with section 22 of the *PGA* and in accordance with the OSPG’s Advocacy Activities Evaluation Framework.
- 3.5 If it is determined that an ASTTBC activity is not directly related to its duties as set out in section 22 of the *PGA*, or may be misconstrued in relation to its statutory functions, a written record of all discussions, including any decisions or actions taken, will be retained and may be examined upon request by the OSPG during its assessment of ASTTBC against the Standards of Good Regulation.

I acknowledge that I have read and understood ASTTBC’s Advocacy Policy and agree to conduct myself in accordance with it.

Signature:

Name:

Date: