

# Tip Sheet: How to Lobby your MPP



**Anyone can lobby a politician.** Lobbying simply means informing politicians of our concerns and holding them accountable to do something about them.

**You do not have to know everything about the issue you're lobbying for.** Concentrate on how the issue affects us as workers, our families, service users, and our communities.

**There is no more important time than now to lobby your MPP.** It's never a waste of time to lobby a PC MPP. Pressuring Doug Ford's backbenchers and ministers in their own backyards is worthwhile, both in their constituency offices and in the streets. And opposition MPPs can become strong allies.

## Before the meeting:

1. **Call the constituency office:** Identify yourself as a constituent and ask for an appointment to speak about the issue that concerns you as someone who works in the field.
2. **Prepare your main points ahead of time.** Do you have a personal story to share? Are there any facts to strengthen your case? What is OPSEU's position on the issue? Keep it short and simple: you may only get a few minutes to talk to your MPP.
3. **Know your audience:** What political party does the MPP belong to and what has the MPP said or done on the issue already?
4. **Meet with lobbying members an hour ahead of the meeting.** Choose someone to steer the conversation. Assign a note-taker. Decide what each person will talk about.

## At the meeting:

5. **Introduce everyone to the MPP:** Tell them you're a constituent and the work you do.
6. **Don't be intimidated by an MPP.** You know as much as they do, particularly on issues that matter to you. It's their job to listen to your concerns.
7. **Tell your MPP why you're concerned.** How is the problem impacting people and communities? How can things work better? Talk about your solutions to the issue.
8. **What's your "ask"?** Ask your MPP to commit to a specific action on the issue and tell them what you're doing. Write down what they say they'll do.
9. **Get a photo with your MPP** and post it on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.

## After the meeting:

10. **Debrief with your group after the meeting:** Discuss how it went. Then visit [opseu.org/COLD](https://opseu.org/COLD) and fill out the survey to let us know how your meeting went!
11. **Keep in touch with your MPP:** Send a thank-you note. Follow up with the MPP on any commitments they have made.