

How to Lobby your MPP about ODSP



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 downloading ODSP and automating applications will affect our clients and us as workers.

There is no more important time than now to lobby your MPP – even on Zoom! 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 changes to ODSP announced by the government.
2. **Prepare your main points ahead of time.** Fill out the "Talking Points for MPPs" sheet ahead of time and use it to take notes at your meeting. Make sure to share your personal experience. 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 when it comes to ODSP. It's their job to listen to your concerns.
7. **Tell your MPP why you're concerned.** How will downloading ODSP impact your clients and you? Share your experience without disclosing identifying info about your clients.
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 screenshot with your MPP** on Zoom and post it on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.

After the meeting:

10. **Debrief with your group after the meeting.** Then visit opseu.org/cold/lobby-report-back/ and fill out the survey to let OPSEU/SEFPO 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.