

HOW TO WRITE YOUR MP

Find your MP's address: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/index.asp>

*Remember... you don't need postage when mailing a letter to your MP or Prime Minister

Be Brief & Clear

Keep it to one page or less. Nobody likes to read a letter that rambles on and on! Also, don't address a hundred issues in one letter. Deal with one issue at a time and state your concern clearly in the first sentence.

Be Nice

Share what you think and feel in a respectful way. Angry and disrespectful letters will just get filed in the circular file cabinet – a.k.a the garbage. If you disagree with something the gov't has done, don't just criticize but offer solutions and alternatives. Also, keep biblical scripture references low as your letter is less likely to be 'heard.'

Get Personal

If possible, focus on how an issue affects you using personal examples that back up your point.

Contact the Right MP

Be sure you contact the MP for your area. If the issue relates to a social policy, you may want to contact the minister of justice or foreign affairs. If so, copy your own MP on the letter. If sending a letter to your Prime Minister, it's good to also copy your local MP.

Style Matters

Handwritten letters and ones signed by hand are more effective than form letters and email. If emailing, put the subject of your letter in the subject line & indicate that you are from your MP's area.

Address them Properly

Address the PM as "The Rt. Honourable..." and start the letter with "Dear Prime Minister."

Address Cabinet Ministers & Premiers as "The Honourable..." and start the letter with "Dear Minister or Dear Premier."

Address MP's as "Mr. surname MP" and start the letter with "Dear MP."

Ask for a Response

Ask what will be done to address your concern and close with a statement like "I look forward to your response." Sign your name and include your return address. If your MP is a Christian, tell them that you are supporting them in prayer.

Things to Include in the Letter:

- intro briefly explaining your concern
- explanation of what you want to see happen
- description of your interest in the issue, including actions you may have taken previously and your membership in a concerned group
- questions that provoke a direct response
- request for commitment to action
- request for MP to respond to your letter