

# HOW TO: HOST AN MPP FOR A MEETING

Invite an MPP to tour your organization or visit with some key staff and/or board members to discuss key issues. 73 of Ontario's 124 MPPs are rookies – while they're learning their new roles and the government is still forming its budget and policy priorities, you can shape their thinking by offering your expertise on the issues that matter to your community.

You can show the MPP that because of your organization's on-the-ground work, you have "inside information" on the community they have been elected to represent. Meeting with an MPP can also help build relationships and help your MPP anticipate how policy decisions will impact people and organizations in their constituency.

MPPs may come themselves, or may have a designated person in their office responsible for meeting with community groups.

## Step by step:

**1. Ask** – in person, call, email or letter are all acceptable. Your invitation should include a brief outline of your organization's work and the priorities you wish to discuss. You can choose one or all of the five priorities of Ontario for All, or another most relevant to your organization.

**2. Schedule** – follow up with a phone call to the [Constituency Office of your MPP](#) to negotiate a date, time and location for the meeting. Have an idea of how much time you would like, and be prepared to shorten the meeting if necessary.

**3. Prepare** – once the meeting is confirmed, put together the team to attend the meeting. This could be a mix of staff, board, and participants in your programs. The more people, the more organized you will need to be! It's always a good idea to assign a chair responsible for keeping the meeting on point and on time.

**4. Inform** – make sure your MPP's staff know who will be in the room. Make sure your participants know the agenda and what to expect.

**5. Meet** – be curious, focused, and keep things organized. Use these [Talking Points](#) to guide your discussion, or create your own. You can ask tough questions - then show your MPP you are listening to their response. Remember – community organizations are experts in community. What expertise can you offer to inform, improve or strengthen their work as your community's elected representative? Use [these guidelines](#) on how to engage in politics while being non-partisan to shape your approach to your meeting.

**6. Follow-up** – with a thank you note to your MPP after your meeting. Remind them you'll be looking to them to respond to the issues you discussed. And let us know! We want to share stories of collective impact. Fill out a short feedback form [here](#).

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## Suggested agenda:

- Land acknowledgement.
- Introductions around the table.
- Introduction to your organization(s) and the community(ies) you serve.
- Hear an introduction from the MPP on their priorities.
- Discussion – Use the Questions for your MPP document as a reference.
- Be prepared to be flexible. The MPP may not have time or want to go through the full agenda. The chair should be able to cut to the chase so that the most important items are discussed.
- Finish by thanking the MPP and providing a contact person for further questions or information.