

# Uphold *PCEPA*

## Guide to Meet Your MP

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### Questions?

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## How to Use this Guide

This guide is designed to make talking with your MP as simple & effective as possible! It outlines steps for an impactful meeting and includes tips & templates you can reference when corresponding with your MP & their office. **A Defend Dignity team member would be happy to join you - if you would like to invite us please email [jenna.scholz@cmacan.org](mailto:jenna.scholz@cmacan.org) (Zoom meetings only). [Want to learn more about the importance of PCEPA?](#)**

Thank you for asking your MP to support PCEPA!

## Stage 1: Schedule

- 1) Find your MP's contact info: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en>
- 2) Call your MP's office to schedule the meeting

### Tips

- A member of their staff will answer your call
- Introduce yourself as a constituent
- Explain that you'd like to meet with your MP to discuss Canada's prostitution legislation
  - They may ask you to send an email to schedule the meeting. When you do, be sure to mention that you called first and include your address and phone number.

### Template: Call Your MP's Office

This is a sample of your side of the conversation:



“Hi, I’m [YOUR NAME] and I am one of [YOUR MP]’s constituents. I appreciate their service to our community. Can you please help me schedule a meeting with them to discuss an issue that is really important to me? I’d like to talk about supporting Canada’s prostitution legislation.”

## Stage 2: Prepare

Meetings are typically a maximum of 20-30 minutes.

1. Create a simple timeline/agenda for your meeting to help you focus on what matters most. It’s helpful to:
  - a. Draw a connection between your MP’s interests/work & *PCEPA*
  - b. Identify why *PCEPA* matters to you on a personal level & choose the reason(s) closest to your heart that you will focus on
  - c. Define your “ask” – what will you specifically ask your MP to do?
2. Send an email before the meeting to thank them & give them some info they can look at beforehand.
3. If you’re meeting on Zoom, make sure you have received the meeting link.

Tips

### [List of Helpful Talking Points](#)

#### **Some questions you can ask yourself when identifying what *PCEPA* means to you personally**

- How are you (or someone you care about) impacted by prostitution?
- Are you concerned for your loved ones (children, grandchildren, sisters, nieces, nephews, etc.)?
- Does this issue intersect with your work? I.e. you’re a teacher, social worker, health professional, law enforcement officer, work in the hotel industry, trucking industry, etc.
- Do you have a heart for marginalized people who are way more susceptible to entering prostitution and/or being trafficked? Such as Indigenous women & girls, racialized individuals, youth/young adults with experience in the child welfare system, individuals with a history of abuse, those experiencing poverty, mental illness, substance dependency, etc.
- Would you like to support gender equality?
- Does your heart break over the inherent harms & frequent violence individuals in prostitution face?
- Are you concerned about the impact legalization would have on your community?



### If you are unfamiliar with your MP's work & interests

- You can [find your MP on OurCommons.ca](#). The page about your MP will show their roles, work, and contact info (normally this includes their own website, which is great to also check for more insight). Most MPs are also on social media.
- Knowing how *PCEPA* is relevant to your MP is important - if you don't have time, ask [jenna.scholz@cmaacan.org](mailto:jenna.scholz@cmaacan.org) to do this step for you.

### Template: Pre-Meeting Email

Here's a sample - feel free to personalize by including what matters most to you & your MP.

" Dear [your MP],

Thank you for making time to meet with me to discuss the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA)*.

*PCEPA* outlines Canada's prostitution laws which were inspired by Sweden's successful "Equality Model" approach: sex buying, pimping, recruiting, brothel keeping and advertising are all prohibited, while those offering their own sexual services are given immunity from prosecution. This shifts the burden from those selling sex onto those whose behaviour is predatory in nature.

*PCEPA* recognizes that prostitution is a form of exploitation and systemic violence against women, and a significant barrier to equality between the sexes. It recognizes that most individuals in prostitution are not there by way of freely given choice, but rather as a result of poverty, marginalization, racialization, abuse, coercion, or other systemic issues. It is essential to offer those who are prostituted supports and viable alternatives, while also addressing the root causes that drive individuals to prostitution in the first place.

*PCEPA* is facing a constitutional challenge and it could also be reviewed by Parliament soon. I urge you to support *PCEPA* and ensure it is enforced across the country, as it is an essential tool in the work to combat sexual exploitation. To learn more about why upholding *PCEPA* is so important, visit this webpage: <https://defenddignity.ca/pcepa-mp/>. It contains a 6-minute video of 4 Canadian survivors of sexual exploitation as well as other stakeholders, a Nanos Research Poll of Canadians' views on prostitution & *PCEPA*, and reasons why *PCEPA* is the correct approach to prostitution.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss this further.

Respectfully, [your name]"

### Stage 3: Attend

- Have on hand: any notes from your preparation & an information package to leave with them (or if it's online, you can email this after)



- Thank your MP for their time, for serving your community, & for any specific work they have done that you appreciate. Be respectful & kind throughout the meeting.
- Share your concerns and listen to your MP's views & questions. Take note of any questions or requests they have.
  - If you're unsure about the answer, feel free to email us after & we can try to assist
  - They may also share some insights or suggestions – please let us know

### Information Package to Give Your MP

You can print our *Information Package on Prostitution & PCEPA* to leave with your MP or email it to your MP after the meeting. Email [jenna.scholz@cmacan.org](mailto:jenna.scholz@cmacan.org) if you don't already have a copy.

## Stage 4: Follow-Up

1. Please email [jenna.scholz@cmacan.org](mailto:jenna.scholz@cmacan.org) to let her know how it went or fill out the [feedback form on Defend Dignity's website](#)
2. Send a quick “thank you” email to your MP.
  - a. Include a few highlights of what you talked about, follow-up on any questions they had, and remind them of any actions you discussed.
  - b. Attach the Information Package mentioned above, if you haven't given it to them yet

## Option: Calling Your MP instead of Meeting in Person/Over Zoom

Meetings often have the most impact but calling your MP's office is still a great way to advocate. You can use a lot of the information in the previous sections to assist you. Your MP may not be available to talk at the time you call – you can talk with their staff member or ask them if it's possible to have your MP call you back. It's a good idea to send a follow-up email afterwards. Find your MP's number here: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en>

### Template

This is a sample of your side of the conversation:

“Hi, I'm [your name] and I am one of your constituents. I appreciate your service to our community [give an example if you can]. I'd like to talk about supporting Canada's prostitution legislation, outlined in the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA)*. I support *PCEPA*'s approach, which makes buying sex and pimping illegal in Canada, while those who are being prostituted are not subject to criminal charges. *PCEPA* is facing a constitutional challenge and it could also be reviewed by Parliament soon. [talk a little about why you care about keeping *PCEPA*]. What are your thoughts on this? Would you please work to uphold *PCEPA* and ensure it is enforced across Canada? Thank you for taking the time to talk with me today.”

