

A PRAYER FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Father,

**Guide and bless the men and women who have been elected
and entrusted with the administration of our province.**

**Grant them the wisdom to govern with integrity and humility.
Give them the strength to make the decisions necessary to protect
and care for all Ontarians.**

**Fill them with the spirit of Your wisdom and help them to fulfill
their responsibilities in accordance with Your will.**

AMEN

***Building A Relationship
With Your MPP***

~~~~~Helpful Tips~~~~~

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Ontario Provincial Council
Resolutions/Legislation Standing Committees
2008**

Building the Relationship

- Learn all you can about your MPP prior to initial contact
- Review his/her biography
- Read local papers and watch TV news feeds
- Access government web sites to keep informed
- Recognize the “gatekeeper” role of the constituency office
- Introduce yourself to constituency staff: learn their names
- Educate him/her about the Catholic Women’s League
- Be honest and open about your objectives
- Be professional, polite and respectful

Meeting Preparations

- Access to MPP’s will depend on their roles
- Send an introductory letter
- Contact the Constituency Office: be patient but persistent
- If the house is sitting: MPP’s are busy at Queen’s Park
- Access better on Friday: MPP’s visit their ridings
- Consider the current political environment
- Prepare for your meeting: identify the issues and objectives
- Determine if MPP has first hand experience with your issues
- Plan to convey your message within 10-20 minutes
- Prepare a “leave behind” package
- Assemble your team: best not to go alone
- Put a human face to your issue: take someone who is directly impacted by your issue

Attending the Meeting

- Introduce yourself: extend a thank you for the meeting
- Be concise: keep calm and relax
- Discuss the issues: provide examples for emphasis
- State your objective and request support
- Pay attention to body language
- Take note of any comments or questions
- If you cannot provide an answer, indicate you will follow up
- Be grateful for his/her attentiveness and past support
- Offer the “leave behind” package to reinforce the issue

Post-Meeting Follow Up

- Review your understanding of the outcome of the meeting
- Obtain answers to unanswered questions
- Include responses to the above in a thank you letter
- Send the letter as soon as possible following the meeting
- Position yourself as a resource to the MPP and his/her staff
- Look for opportunities for continued engagement
- Summer presents opportunities to re-engage
- Approach your MPP at informal events and re-connect
- Leverage the relationship you built through the meeting
- Extend invitations to parish events
- Invite him/her to speak at a League function
- Acknowledge and affirm when opportunities present