

How to Petition the House of Commons

We do not elect new governments in Canada.

We just toss out the old one and hope for the best.

Limit all Prime Ministers to two terms or 8 years total

PETITIONING THE HOUSE OF COMMONS: A PRACTICAL GUIDE

I. DRAFTING A PETITION

A petition cannot be presented to the House of Commons unless it has first been submitted by a Member of Parliament to the Clerk of Petitions for certification. In order to be certified, the petition must meet certain requirements established by the rules and practices of the House. The following list sets out guidelines for drafting petitions on matters of public concern.

General requirements

- The petition must be handwritten, typed, printed or photocopied on sheets of paper of usual size, i.e. measuring 21.5 cm x 28 cm (8 1/2 x 11 inches) or 21.5 cm x 35.5 cm (8 1/2 x 14 inches).
- The words "To the House of Commons" or "To the House of Commons in Parliament assembled" must appear at the beginning of the petition. Petitions to the Government of Canada, the Prime Minister, a Minister, or an individual Member of Parliament are not acceptable.
- The petition must be respectful and use temperate language.
- The text of the petition must not be altered either by erasing or crossing out words or by adding words.
- No other matter is to be attached or appended to or written on the petition, whether in the form of additional documents, maps, pictures, news articles, explanatory or supporting statements, or requests for support. A return address is allowed.
- The petition must concern a subject within the authority of the Parliament of Canada. The petition must not concern a purely provincial or municipal matter or any matter which should be brought before a court of law or a tribunal.

Prayer

- The petition must contain a request, called a "prayer", for Parliament to take some action (or refrain from taking some action) to remedy a grievance. A statement of grievance or a statement of opinion alone cannot be received as a petition. The petition must not, however, demand or insist that Parliament do something.
- The "prayer" should be clear and to the point. Details which the petitioners think important may be included in the statement of grievance.