

## So, you want to start a federal petition?

Guide to [general information](#) | Guide to [electronic petitions](#) | Guide to [paper petitions](#)

### Should I create an e-petition or a paper petition or both?

The requirements for petitions differ depending on whether you are creating a paper or electronic petition. An electronic petition requires a minimum of 500 signatures before the Member of Parliament (MP) can introduce the petition in the House. A paper petition requires a minimum of 25 signatures before the MP can introduce the petition in the House. You may do both types of petitions at the same time.

The Government is mandated to respond to all petitions.

### Drafting the text of the petition

Before you begin drafting, it is recommended that you search through the [petition website](#) for petitions on your subject matter of interest. Finding other petitions on the same subject matter can help you draft the text for your petition.

There are specific guidelines about the format and language of the text of a petition. You are encouraged to contact the office of your MP for assistance in drafting the text, and reviewing the guidelines in the links above.

### Submitting the petition

If this is an e-petition, you will be required to create an online petition account and submit the text of the petition for approval by the Clerk of Petitions. You will also be asked to identify which MP you would like to sponsor the petition because all e-petitions require an MP to sponsor them. Once the text is approved and the MP agrees to sponsor it, the petition will go live and stay open for signatures until the date you specified that it would close. Once closed, the e-petition is certified, sent to the sponsoring MP, and then the MP can stand in the House of Commons and introduce it.

The Government of Canada is mandated to respond to all petitions introduced in the House of Commons within 45 days.

## **Paper Petitions – please note!**

You can snail mail the signed pages to the office of your MP (postage free). The MP will submit the pages to the Clerk of Petitions for certification. Once certified, the MP can stand in the House of Commons and introduce the petition.

Please remember that, in order to be certified, the petition **must**:

- contain original signatures with valid addresses written on the petition;
- have some signatures and addresses on the first page after the full text of the petition (which is understood as having at least three signatures);
- include the subject matter or the prayer of the petition on each subsequent page;
- be printed on paper no smaller than 5.5" x 8.5" and no larger than 11" x 17" .

And it **must not**:

- contain signatures that are photocopied, pasted, taped, or otherwise transferred to it
- contain alterations or interlineations in its text after it's been signed,
- contain any extra text written on the petition with a pen or pencil, eg. "SIGN HERE!"
- include any attachments or appendices
- include images or logos
- be printed on the back of another document