

## THINGS YOU CAN DO

### **1. Write to your MLA and other political candidates in your area.**

Especially if they are recently - appointed or appointed for a further term, a letter of congratulations is one way to begin the process of establishing a good government relation.

Politicians and other decision makers pay attention to their mail. There is an expectation that they respond to concerns of the citizens and it is good politics and crucial to their political survival.

### **2. Meet with your MLA and other political candidates in your area.**

Getting a meeting with the politician is really more about making a “pitch”. You need to be able to be brief, make your point and present the entire issue in a very short period of time. If you have prepared a concise presentation you will be able to make your point. If additional time is available then expand on your major points.

Present the key messages and add your personal experience of the impact of these issues as an example. Provide suggestions about what is needed and offer to follow up with any questions or further information as required. After your meeting send them a thank-you note and/or call the office and see if there is any further information required by the politician.

### **3. Invite your MLA and other political candidates in your area to attend functions or for a visit at your facility (if appropriate).**

Cultivating a direct relationship and the opportunity for ongoing dialogue is the next step.

### **4. Attend leadership debates** for individual parties - ask questions

### **5. Attend election forums/debates** in your community - ask questions

### **6. Encourage everyone to VOTE!**