

# Why Meet with your MPP?

Meeting with MPPs is one of the most effective advocacy tactics available, particularly if your meeting is part of a wider grassroots campaign, like ours, taking place across the province.

Politicians and their staff assume that for every person they meet with on an issue, there are dozens of others in the community who share these concerns.

By meeting with your MPP, you put a human face onto the issue of child care. This can change the politician's perception of the issue from being about spaces, grants and regulations to being about families, educators and programs in their local community.

MPPs in different regions often compare notes about constituency meetings to help them identify when there is widespread support or opposition across the province on different issues.

If you ask an MPP a question that they don't have the answer to, they'll often ask the central party staff to research and prepare an answer. This makes them aware of the issue that you are raising.

Meeting with MPPs gives you a chance to listen to the MPP's position and concerns, which can help us adapt our strategy to take these into consideration.



## How to Secure a Meeting

- Email the MPP's constituency office to set up a meeting with your MPP. If you don't receive a response within a week, follow up with a phone call.
- In your email or phone message be sure to mention that you are a local constituent. If you are part of a local child care program, mention this too, as well as if other parents and educators might be joining you.
- Try to be flexible in the times that you can meet, as MPP's often have only a few constituency days available.
- If the MPP is unavailable for a meeting, request a meeting with a member of their staff. Staff often have more time to meet, can answer many questions and can raise your concerns with the MPP. If you still would like to meet with your MPP ask the staff if a follow-up meeting or a child care centre tour in the future would be possible.