

TRUDEAU: WE'RE WATCHING YOU
#PROTECTPRESSFREEDOM
LOBBYING WEEK: JANUARY 23-27TH, 2017



LOBBYING GUIDE

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE) and a coalition of civil society, media and labour partners are coordinating a **lobbying week from January 23 to 27th**, leading up to a [national day of action](#) on **February 4th**, to call for an end to warrantless mass surveillance, a repeal of Bill C-51 (AKA Anti-terrorism Act, 2015) and the creation of new laws protecting advocates, whistleblowers and journalists. This guide covers **how to set up a meeting** with your federal Member of Parliament, **how to prepare, what to say** and **how to follow up**.

We are calling on the Government to:

- i) **End warrantless mass surveillance** to protect the privacy of Canadians, while creating independent watchdogs for national security agencies.
- ii) **Support Private Member's Bill C-303** to repeal Bill C-51 (AKA Anti Terrorism Act, 2015).
- iii) **Support Private Member's Bill S-231** to create a press shield law and strengthen protection for advocates, whistleblowers and journalists.

Learn more, visit ProtectPressFreedom.ca.

Why Lobby Your Member of Parliament (MP)?

We all have the power to shape and influence government policy through lobbying our MPs. Your MP is elected to represent your interests, and it is *your right* to meet with them to discuss your concerns. Lobbying your MP may seem daunting but it's actually pretty easy and a great way to help make change happen.

5 SIMPLE STEPS TO LOBBYING SUCCESS

Step 1: Find your MP

You can find information your federal Member of Parliament, including the address and contact information of your local constituency office, by entering your postal code on OpenParliament.ca.

- [Click here](#) to find your MP by postal code.
- [Click here](#) to find their your MP's contact details by searching their name.

Our Campaigns Coordinator can help you lobby your MP. Even if you don't need help, let us know what you're planning and how it goes! Call 416 893 2286 x262 or email dpike@cjfe.org.

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Step 2: Make an appointment with your MP

The easiest way of making an appointment is simply to **call up the constituency office**. MPs receive piles of letters and emails, so you may not get a timely response if you write. Simply ask to speak to the MP's assistant, explain to him or her that you are a constituent and that you would like to meet with your MP, and briefly explain the reason for the meeting.

Ask to make an appointment with the MP at their constituency office sometime during the week of **January 23-27th** (this is the last week before MPs return to Ottawa and the House of Commons resumes sitting, so they should be present).

Step 3: Prepare for the meeting

Before you meet with your MP it is important that you have familiarised yourself with the arguments, and have done a bit of research on your MP. You can investigate:

- What party is your MP a member of? Are they a cabinet member, or do they have another position of greater responsibility such as a Parliamentary Secretary?
- What positions have they taken on national security issues like Bill C-51, privacy or freedom of the press?

Make sure you understand the key messages of the campaign and read the attached **Background Briefing** or the information online at ProtectPressFreedom.ca.

- Plan what you will say in rough notes, especially what you want to ask your MP to do.
- Print out a copy will provide a briefing to leave with your MP – make sure you have this.

Step 4: The Meeting

Arrive a few minutes early, and consider bringing along a friend who can provide another perspective during the conversation. Make sure you clearly set out who you are, and identify yourself as a constituent. Use the tips below to get your message across in a clear, courteous and concise manner.

- Thank the MP for seeing you and establish how much time you have to talk to them.
- Outline the background to the issue; use the Background Briefing to help. **Be sure the mention the poll data showing how concerned Canadians are about this issue.**
- Tell your MP how and why it impacts on you – use examples if you can

Don't beat around the bush. Tell your MP up front what they need to do, then briefly state your argument as to why they should do so. **Crucially, try to get them to give a specific commitment.** Make your lobbying asks clear, by phrasing these as direct requests. For example:

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I ASK THAT YOU PUBLICLY OPPOSE NEW POLICE POWERS FOR MASS SURVEILLANCE. PROTECT CANADIANS' PRIVACY!

I ASK THAT YOU SUPPORT PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL C-303 TO REPEAL BILL C-51!

I ASK THAT YOUR PARTY SUPPORT PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL S-231 TO CREATE A PRESS SHIELD LAW!

- Ask if you can get a picture taken with your MP; share it on social media with the hashtag [#ProtectPressFreedom](#), and remember to tag us @canadaCJFE!
- Ask your MP to keep in touch and update you on what they do following your meeting. Make sure you give your full name and address.

Step 5: Following Up

As soon as possible after the meeting, send a letter/ email of thanks to your MP. In your letter you should also summarise what was said. This will remind them of the issues you discussed and any actions they have said they will take

- Send a copy of the above letter or email to dpik@cjfe.org along with any reply you receive. This will ensure we can gauge the views of MPs and concentrate our lobbying efforts in the future.

LATEST INFORMATION

Keep up-to-date with the latest information:

- [National Day of Action: Surveillance, C-51 and Press Freedom](#) Facebook event
- Twitter – use hashtag [#ProtectPressFreedom](#)
- Check www.ProtectPressFreedom.ca for the latest updates.
- Let us know how you get on by dropping us a line at dpik@cjfe.org Good luck lobbying your MP!

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

February 4th is a **national day of action** on Press Freedom, timed to coincide with the court date of VICE journalist Ben Makuch on February 6, 2017. Ben Makuch is fighting an RCMP production order for instant messaging chat logs between himself and a suspected ISIS fighter. Ben's struggle to protect press freedom will set a precedent in Canadian law for journalistic independence and the protection of confidential journalistic sources. Ben's case is only one instance among a **series of serious press freedom violations in Canada**.

In September, journalist Michaël Nguyen's computer was seized after Quebec's judicial counsel claimed, falsely, that information he published was obtained illegally from their website. And in November, *La Presse's* Patrick Lagacé revealed that he has been the [subject of Montréal city police](#)

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[surveillance](#) since the beginning of 2016. Days after his revelation, at least 6 other journalists learned that they had been the subject of Quebec provincial police surveillance in 2013. These cases have ignited local controversy in Quebec, triggering a provincial inquiry. A poll found that **only 11% of Canadians** believe it is acceptable for police to monitor journalists to find their sources, while **70% believe** that placing journalists under surveillance undermines press freedom.

In contrast to these issues, a senate Bill (S-231) has been introduced, which would create a 'shield law'. This law would protect Canadian journalists from precisely the type of fundamental press freedom violations the these journalists have been exposed to. **70% of Canadians** support the federal government creating a press shield law.

At the same time, civil society groups in Canada are preparing for the Federal Government to introduce long awaited amendments to the reckless and ineffective Anti-Terrorism Act, 2015 (formerly, Bill C-51). A private member's bill (C-303) has been introduced in the House of Commons. When implemented it will constitute a line-by-line repeal of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2015. A recent poll found that **only 56% of Canadians** believe security and intelligence agencies safeguard and respect their rights and freedoms.

During the recent [#YourNatlSec](#) consultations, Canadians learned that the government is proposing a whole new set of police powers for mass surveillance. Recent reports show police have, without any suspicion of wrongdoing, routinely spied on Indigenous activists and Muslims, among others, in the name of promoting national security or furthering criminal investigations. The proposed powers would make these abuses worse. The same poll showed that **74% of Canadians** believe the government should require a warrant to access sensitive, personal information.

CJFE and a coalition of civil society, media and labour partners are coordinating a week of lobbying leading up to a national day of action on February 4th 2017, calling for an end to the practices of mass surveillance, a repeal of the Anti-terrorism Act, 2015 and the creation of new laws protecting advocates, whistleblowers and journalists.

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