



Meeting with Politicians

Presentation by Kent Hehr

March 11th, 2021

A black and white photograph of a pair of denim jeans hanging over the back of a wooden chair. The chair has a cane backrest with a diamond-shaped lattice pattern. The jeans are folded over the top rail of the chair, with one leg hanging down. A dark leather patch is visible on the waistband of the jeans. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Politicians put their pants on,
one leg at a time.



Preparing for your meeting.

- **MAKE IT LOCAL:** Bring a constituent. Bring a local lens to that representative.
 - Have a constituent of the MLA send an email explaining that they are a resident of their constituency;
 - State that you are a member of the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good;
 - And, that you would like a meeting to discuss the issues being put forward.
 - If you haven't heard back from the constituency office in 7 days, follow up with a phone call.



Preparing for your meeting.

- **RESEARCH:**

- Know who your MLA is and what their background and interests are. Apply the Power Analysis from the Foundations for Community Organizing training.
- Know what they did prior to entering into politics. This will help you engage meaningfully with your representative.



How do you get to Carnegie Hall?

March 11th, 2021



PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE.

March 11th, 2021



The meeting.

1. INTRODUCTION:

- Make introductions to the MLA of the members who are at the meeting. Take some time to tell them a little bit about yourself.
- Introduce the MLA to the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good. We are an alliance made up of 31 organizations with 35,000+ members.

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The meeting.

2. THE ISSUE:

- Communicate to your MLA with the issues you will be discussing.
- Given time constraints, present the Alliance key messages in 15 minutes or less to allow for you to ask for the MLA's feedback in the final 15 minutes of the meeting. This is where the back-and-forth occurs.
- Remember, if you disagree... disagree agreeably!



The meeting.

3. SEEK FEEDBACK:

- When you have completed your presentation, ask for the MLA's feedback on the issues you discussed. You need to clearly ask the MLA for support.
- Remember, it is okay to be direct. This creates healthy tension and helps build relationships regardless of what the MLA's position is on the issue.



The Meeting.

4. THANK THE MLA:

- Thank the MLA for their time and for their public service.

5. SCHEDULE TIME FOR GROUP REFLECTION:

- Be sure to schedule a 30 minute chat (immediately or soon) after the meeting to collect key takeaways and possible next steps.



THANK YOU.

