

Advice on Contacting Political Representatives

The Government Relations Office (GRO) has a tri-campus mandate to advocate for the public policy interests of the University, and to provide resources and support to U of T's communities to help facilitate interactions with government. The GRO actively engages with the federal government, the government of Ontario, the City of Toronto, and the City of Mississauga.

The University has a large and diverse community of faculty, students and staff who may have interest in engaging with governments for a variety of reasons. Most community interactions with government do not require support from the Government Relations Office. For instance, faculty applying for routine tri-council grants, students requesting government financial assistance, or staff applying for EI-eligible leave are all actions supported by other areas of the University. At the same time, the GRO is a resource available to the University community to support strategic interactions with governments.

When should I contact the GRO?

- Hosting a senior public official on campus:
 - The GRO can provide protocol and logistics support to community members who are seeking to host a government official such as a Deputy Minister, Minister or Member of Parliament.
 - Notifying the GRO can support the University's goals as it may provide an opportunity for U of T to advocate on a current issue while the official is on campus.
- Seeking information regarding the business of government:
 - The GRO team actively monitors the activity of the federal and provincial governments, as well as the activities of the City of Toronto and City of Mississauga. The GRO gathers information and provides insights on breaking government news and initiatives, like annual budgets and economic statements.
- Advocating with Government.
 - The GRO can provide content, logistical and strategic support for community members to contribute to public policy conversations and support institutional positions presented to government.
 - The GRO team is comprised of government relations practitioners familiar with procedures at all levels of government and can provide advice on how to participate in government business.