

MPP MEETINGS - FOLA LOBBY DAY 2023 - THINGS TO REMEMBER

DURING THE MEETING

Ask if you can take a screen shot of the meeting.

Make sure you have a clear purpose for the meeting – MPPs are busy people who will dislike having their time wasted!

Prepare a short introduction of yourself, including your skills and your workplace. Think about your message – what is the practice story you can share to inform the MPP about the issue(s) that impacts you and your clients?

Is the message also relevant to other workplaces, your Law Association, and your community? Write your key points and practice your narrative so you can deliver your message in a confident and coherent manner.

If you have a specific “ask”, please be clear about that and come prepared to offer a solution. Limit “asks” to one or two priorities and offer a solution and/or offer to be of assistance in seeking a solution. Identify any benefits to those who use the justice system. Try not to make it all about you and/or lawyers.

Review the MPP’s website to verify his/her role within their political party. Are they a Minister or Critic? Which committee do they belong to? Note their biography, any press releases, recent speeches, and key issues within the riding.

Listen carefully to the answers and if the MPP misses the point of the question, restate it in a respectful way. If the MPP goes off track, the lead needs to refocus attention back to the questions and matters at hand.

AFTER THE MEETING

Review the main points and impressions and prepare an overview that includes the issues discussed and the MPP’s responses and your overall impression. Send the report and photo to katie.robinette@fola.ca. Please highlight any follow-up required.

Send the MPP a thank you email. Include an offer to be of assistance.

REMEMBER

Meeting with your elected representative provides an opportunity to form a relationship and foster ongoing dialogue about justice issues and the practice of law with a key decision-maker. This is an important political engagement process for FOLA. We want it to be positive for Law Association members and MPPs alike.

At the meeting:

- Login on time.
- Prepare for some “small talk.”
- Plan to spend 60 percent of your time listening, and only 40 percent talking.
- Focus on discussion, not debate. If appropriate, present the “ask.”
- Engage in active listening to determine the MPP’s views, beliefs, and values.
- Jointly determine follow-up actions and next steps.

After the meeting:

- Send a thank you email. Be sure to offer your expertise or assistance on the issue(s) in the future.
- You may also want to amend your “ask” based on what you learned in meeting with the MPP.
- Track and pursue the “ask,” particularly any commitments made during the meeting.