

MEET YOUR CANDIDATE



Meet with candidates in your riding, ask questions about their position on important issues, and share our recommendations for how to build a more equal Canada and a better world.

YOU ARE PART OF A COLLECTIVE FORCE

It's important to demonstrate that people across Canada care about ending the injustice of poverty and are standing up for gender justice, both at home and around the world. This election, we're calling on Oxfam Canada supporters to speak with their local candidates and find out where they stand on these important issues.

This toolkit provides you with tips and tricks to help you do just that.

Together, Oxfam Canada supporters across the country have the power to reach and influence political candidates. You are part of a collective force for equality and justice.

WHO

Know who's running: Visit [ELECTIONS CANADA](#) to find out what riding you live in and which candidates are running.

Find out more about them: Read up about candidates in your riding to find out about their backgrounds, their position on issues, statements made in speeches and their voting record if they have already held elected office.

Meet with Candidates from all political parties: Democracy is about dialogue and engagement, even with those we may not always agree with. Meeting with your candidates is an opportunity to ask tough questions and have critical discussions. Although you may disagree on certain issues, always maintain a level of respect when speaking to any political candidate.



WHAT

Ask your candidates 3 key questions:

While many candidates will be eager to meet with you, the meetings might be brief. To keep the conversation focused, we recommend asking about three key issues that mean the most to you.

Our election guide, *Informed Choices: Your Vote, Your Voice*, provides policy recommendations on two key themes:

1. Affordability and public services for all: including ending poverty, affordable and accessible child care, tackling extreme wealth inequality and taking real action on climate change.
2. Advancing fairness and equality: addressing hate and marginalization, ensuring gender justice and women's rights and supporting leadership in global crisis and conflicts.

Each theme has three recommended questions you could ask.

Check them out, mix and match any of the questions you feel aligns with your values the most, or just go with the three questions listed below.

- Will your party commit to protecting and strengthening the \$10 a Day Child Care Plan? If so, how will you prioritize public planning for more equitable access to child care services?
- Does your party support implementing a permanent wealth tax on the ultra-rich to generate new revenue for public services like affordable housing and healthcare?
- If your party forms the next government, will your government end all arms transfers to Israel and uphold international law in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict?

WHERE

MEET CANDIDATES WHERE THEY ARE:

One of the best things about engaging in an election is there is so much happening. Your local candidates can be found at community events, BBQ's, debates, townhalls and even at your front door. These opportunities make it easier to start conversations with candidates without needing to schedule a meeting at their campaign office.

If in-person conversations isn't your thing, you can always call the candidates and have a conversation over the phone, or send them your recommendations by email or engage with them on social media by tagging or tweeting at them.

SETTING UP A FORMAL MEETING:

If you prefer a scheduled meeting, call the candidate's campaign office and tell them you live in the riding and want to share your priorities. Be clear about the purpose of the meeting and how many people will attend. Bringing a friend or fellow advocate can help the conversation flow. Having others with you can also boost your confidence!

WHEN

The 45th Federal election is scheduled to take place on or before April 28, 2025. Candidates are already hitting the campaign trail and so should you! From now until Election Day, you'll be able to meet up with your local candidates and help put fighting inequality and gender justice on the map.

HOW

Speaking to political leaders and party candidates can feel intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. Just remember: candidates are just regular people looking to serve their community - and you are a part of that community.



TIPS BEFORE YOU SPEAK TO YOUR CANDIDATES:

- **Know the issues:** Take some time to read through our issue statements and policy recommendations connected to the 3 questions you decide to ask from our Guide to the Election. Save them on your phone or print them out so you can have them on hand if needed.
- **Practice:** Try out your messages and questions in front of a mirror or with a friend before speaking with a candidate.
- **Start with the easier candidate:** If there is a candidate you feel would be easier to talk to or is more in line with your personal views, than talk to them first. You will likely feel more comfortable and it is a great way to practice.
- **Make a good impression:** First impressions are key! Always be courteous when speaking to any political candidate.
- **Get personal:** Bring up personal anecdotes that are memorable, important and persuasive. When you express how these issues affect you personally, it helps candidates better understand the community they hope to represent.
- **Tell them why they should care:** You are part of a large movement of people across Canada, and in their community, working to end poverty and advance gender equality.
- **Be specific:** Before leaving, clearly tell the candidate what you would like them to commit to doing, if elected. Refer to our election guide and select recommendations you feel strongly about.

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER:

Fighting poverty and injustice is political, not partisan!

Oxfam Canada is registered charity and our work is always non-partisan. Being completely non-partisan is especially important during an election year. Oxfam plays an important role in helping inform public debate and the creation of new policy that benefits all.

If you personally gravitate towards a particular political party, please refrain from making that known when meeting candidates in your riding. If your political preference does surface in the conversation, please make sure to note they are your personal opinions and do not represent the views of Oxfam Canada.

REMEMBER, MEETING WITH YOU IS THEIR JOB, NOT AN INTERRUPTION:

Connecting with constituents gives candidates the opportunity to understand your views and they are usually grateful for input. It's their job to get to know their constituents and hear different perspectives.

SPEAK TO THE CANDIDATES, BUT ALSO THEIR TEAMS:

Candidates run on their own, but they are backed by a team. Don't underestimate the importance of having a conversation with members of the team who are there to advise the candidate and shape their campaign. Speaking with campaign managers, event coordinators, media relations coordinators, volunteer coordinators and executive assistants can all help get your message across.