

Practical Tools for Advocacy Workshop



Welcome and Overview

Brief introductions.

Review of workshop outline

- 11:30 welcome and overview
- 11:40 your experience as an advocate
- 12:00 knowing who is who
- 12:10 doing your homework
- 12:20 sharing and debriefing
- 12:40 wrap-up/ tips for contacting politicians/
- 12:50 closing prayer

What is advocacy ?

Advocacy is the process of trying to influence decision-makers and public opinion. An advocate is a supporter, a campaigner, a sponsor, an activist in support of a particular cause or group of people. We often think of advocacy only in terms of government. While that's important, we can act as advocates in many other ways: with people at church, and among neighbours and friends.

Your experience as an advocate

With a partner **introduce yourself** and **share an experience** you have had advocating on behalf of someone or a cause. **Identify** what you **learned** from this experience and what **obstacles** you faced.

On a snow card record one thing you learned and one obstacle you faced.

We will hear all your responses as you place your snow card on the wall.

Knowing who is who

On the list below identify the elected officials in your local area:

Member of Parliament (MP)	
Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP)	
City/Municipal/Regional Councillor	
School Board Trustee	

Doing your home work

Think for a moment about an issue you would like to advocate for.

Write down what that issue is: _____

Share your issue area with the group. If there are others who have the same or similar issue, work with them to **complete the checklist below**.



Your issues check list (write what you know below or what you still need to learn, or what you have questions about):

- Your knowledge of the issue** List the facts you know; don't know; need to know. To be effective, you need to go beyond just vaguely feeling something is wrong.

- The history of the issue.** How did the issue come about? When? Who is affected by it?

- Preparing questions for the decision-maker** What framework or perspective of the decision-maker are you working from? Develop your questions out of stated policy or vision/value statements which frame your specific policy request. Ask for an explanation of how something is supposed to work, and why it may not work in a particular person's situation.
Don't begin with an attack!

- Have real people been affected by this issue?** Be specific

- What alternatives can you suggest to change this situation?** Be realistic

- Which level of government is responsible?** Federal or Provincial or Local?

Sharing -- Debriefing

Closing Prayer (All standing)

Leader: Let us pray for the breaking in of God's kingdom in our world today.
Lord God, because Jesus has taught us to trust you in all things,
we hold to his word and share his plea;

ALL: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Reader 1: Where powerful governments claim their policies are heaven blessed,
while scripture states that God helps the powerless:

ALL: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Reader 2: Where our prayers falter, our faith weakens, our light grows dim:

ALL: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Reader 3: Where Jesus Christ calls us:

ALL: YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Reader 4: Lord God, you have declared your kingdom is among us. Open our ears to hear it,
our hands to serve it, our hearts to hold it. This we pray in Jesus' name.

ALL: AMEN.