

# Instruction sheet for paper petition



## Parliamentary Paper Petition

A parliamentary paper petition is a tool for citizens to engage their elected Members of parliament and have their voices heard in the House of Commons. Please use this tool to collect in-person signatures in your community.

### ***On the side: Think intergenerational!***

Consider where you are collecting signatures – invite local youth leaders, experienced members, school groups, adult faith formations and local environmental groups to get involved.

## Process to follow:

### **1. Print the parliamentary petition form.**

You can print the petition on a regular home printer. Both sides of the paper may be used. **Do not modify the petition in any way before or after printing.**

If you have multiple signing stations ensure that at least one copy of page 1 is present, with the full text of the petition. You may print as many copies of page 2 as you might need.

### **2. Collect signatures:**

The petition must be signed by at least 25 Canadian residents or citizens of any age. Everyone who signs the petition must fill in all information fields. Please ensure that at least some signatures appear on the front page. Additional signatures may be collected on as many copies of page 2 as needed.

### **3. Campaign report online:**

Go to [devp.org/reportback](http://devp.org/reportback) to share how many signatures you gathered and to whom your petition was delivered.

This is very important! It will help us learn how the collection of petition signatures is going and enable us to update you on the process as we move forward. Having the total number of signatures will allow us to demonstrate the strength of the D&P movement when we meet with elected officials as we follow this important issue in the future.

### **4. Deliver the petition**

There are two ways to deliver your paper petition for effective advocacy.

#### **A. Meet your MP**

A meeting with your MP is an opportunity to educate him/her on the struggles facing Development and Peace partners, your concerns as a citizen and the positive impact of due diligence legislation in Canada.

You can arrange to meet with your MP in person or virtually. If you meet with your MP virtually, please arrange delivery of the petition with the MP's office. Go to [devp.org](http://devp.org) for tools to assist in planning this meeting. Please let us know you have met with your MP and share a photo at [devp.org/reportback](http://devp.org/reportback).

*\*Please advise your local animator in advance of your meeting with your MP*

## **B. Return the completed petition to the Development and Peace local office**

If you cannot deliver your completed petition to your MP, please send it to your local animator (contact information at [www.devp.org/en/contact-en](http://www.devp.org/en/contact-en)). We will work to make sure we can use the petition!

## **Technical requirements for parliamentary petitions**

### **Format:**

- Use clean letter (8.5x11) or legal (8.5x14) paper.
  - A petition printed on the reverse side of another document is not accepted.
  - The reverse side of the petition may be used to collect additional signatures and addresses.
- Do not modify the text of the petition in any way, in the digital version or hard copy.
  - The text of the petition cannot be altered by erasing, crossing out or adding words or commentary. Any alteration will make the petition unacceptable.

### **Signatures valides :**

- A minimum of 25 valid signatures with addresses is required on a paper parliamentary petition.
- A parliamentary petition must contain original signatures written directly on the document.
- Each signatory must sign (not print) directly on the petition itself. If someone is unable to sign their own name because of illness or disability, this must be noted on the petition and the note signed by a witness.
- Canadian citizens and residents of Canada may sign a petition.
- There is no minimum age requirement.
- Only individuals can sign (one person cannot sign for a group).
- The use of any address format is acceptable if it clearly establishes the place where the signatory resides. Someone who does not have a fixed address must state it on the petition.
- Additional contact information (phone number, email, etc.) is not required.
- Some signatures with addresses must appear on the first sheet with the text of the petition.
- Signatures and addresses may appear on the reverse sides of pages.
- A Member of Parliament may sign a parliamentary petition, but should ask another member to present it. Members of Parliament will not be counted as valid signatures.

# Petition to the House of Commons

## Whereas,

- companies based in Canada are contributing to human rights abuse and environmental damage around the world;
- people who protest these abuses and defend their rights are often harassed, attacked or killed. Indigenous Peoples, women and marginalized groups are especially under threat; and
- Canada encourages but does not require companies to prevent such harms in their global operations and supply chains.

## We, the undersigned citizens and residents of Canada, call upon the House of Commons to adopt human rights and environmental due diligence legislation that would:

- require companies to prevent adverse human rights impacts and environmental damage throughout their global operations and supply chains;
- require companies do their due diligence, including by carefully assessing how they may be contributing to human rights abuse or environmental damage abroad and by providing access to remedy when harms occur;
- result in meaningful consequences for companies that fail to carry out and report on adequate due diligence; and
- establish a legal right for people who have been harmed to seek justice in Canadian courts.

<b>Signatures</b> <b>(Canadian citizens or residents only)</b> Please sign your name, do not print	<b>Addresses</b> <b>(Postal code or municipality)</b>
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