CANADIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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The national voice for dentistry

How to Meet with Your Local Candidates

A federal election in Canada will take place on Monday, September 20, 2021.

Over the next several weeks, local candidates in your community will be campaigning and engaging with voters as they seek to be elected as a Member of Parliament, representing your riding in the House of Commons in Ottawa.

Campaign activities can include:

- Traditional "door-knocking" or meeting prospective voters at their front door to assess their level of support.
- Attending local functions and events, such as barbecues, pancake breakfasts, festivals, or other events where members of your community and prospective voters may congregate, depending on COVID-19 restrictions in the area.
- All-candidate meetings or debates, which may be organized by local groups in your community.
- This time, due to the pandemic, candidates may also be hosting virtual events.

In addition to meeting candidates at these events, you can reach out to their campaign offices if you wish to arrange a call or meeting. Candidates for the major parties can be found below:

- **Liberal Party of Canada**
- **Conservative Party of Canada**
- **Bloc Québecois**
- **New Democratic Party**
- **Green Party of Canada**

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Tips on Meeting Your Candidate

If you have the opportunity to meet with your candidate(s), the following are a few tips to help you get the most out of your meeting:

- **Introduce yourself:** Take a moment to tell the candidate about yourself and your practice, roughly how many patients you serve, and what part of the community you are from. All politics is local, so this can help the candidate situate your issue in their mind and understand how it affects their riding. Moreover, let them know of your professional experience, and what you have personally observed in relation to the issue you ae raising with them.
- **Be brief:** At this time, candidates may feel themselves pulled in several directions, or you may see several people waiting to speak with them. Take the time you need to discuss your concern, but recognize that you may only have a few moments to get your point across. Focus on one issue and limit yourself to one or two quick points of discussion. If you raise a series of issues in such a brief period, it will be difficult to leave an impression on any of them to the candidate.
- **Avoid conflict or debate:** At this point, you are raising an issue for the candidate to consider, not attempting to win an argument with them. Most candidates are in "listening mode" through this time, though if you find yourself in a contentious discussion around your issue, it is best to remain at a factual level.
- **Follow up:** Some candidates may offer to follow up for more information. This is a good opportunity to reinforce the importance of your issue, so take their information or offer your own contact information.

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