

# Instructions for Volunteers

## For Coalition Canada's 2026 Paper Petition Campaign

The petition calls for a **Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) Demonstration Project in Prince Edward Island (PEI) – [A GBI for PEI](#)**

**Our goal is to have 100 Member of Parliament (MPs) receive at least one petition with 30 signatures on it. MPs can receive more than one petition.**

**We are asking volunteers to:**

**1. Use our petition for a GBI in PEI demonstration project.**

- **Download and print the [Paper Petition](#).** Our petition follows all the content and formatting rules as outlined in the Government of Canada's [Paper Petition Guide](#), and it has been reviewed and approved by the Clerk of Petitions (the Clerk).

**2. Collect 30 signatures**

- **A Petition must have at least 25 certified signatures** to be presented in the House of Commons. Each signature is reviewed by the Clerk, and some may be disqualified if they don't follow the Paper Petition Guidelines. This is why we suggest you collect 30 signatures, in case some of the signatures are disqualified.
- **Please don't collect more than 30 signatures** on each petition. Instead, submit more than one petition, each with 30 signatures. The Government has to respond to every petition submitted in the House. This way, MPs and the government are reminded again and again how much support there is for this issue across Canada.
- **Worried that you will not be able to collect 30 signatures?** Create a small team of 2 or 3 friends and work together, each one taking turns to collect original signatures.

**3. Guidelines for collecting signatures:**

- **To sign this petition, you must be a Canadian citizen or resident.**
- Make sure each person **signs** (does not print) their name and clearly describes where in Canada they reside (full fixed address). **All signatures must be original (no photocopied, taped or pasted signatures are allowed).**
- There is **no minimum age** - so youth and children old enough to sign their name and clearly print their full address can sign.
- If a **person is unhoused** (no fixed address), they can indicate this, along with the city and province where they are currently located. No other contact information is required.
- If a **person has a disability** and is unable to sign the petition, note this on the petition and sign the note as a witness.

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#### 4. Ask a Member of Parliament (MP) to present your petition in the House of Commons.

- **We suggest you start with the local MP in your riding.** Even if you think they will not be supportive or not want to present it in the House of Commons, it is an opportunity to meet with your MP and discuss this important issue with them.
- **If they do not agree to present the petition** remind them that while MPs are not required to agree to your request, Paper Petitions are a century-old tradition that enables citizens to raise their concerns directly in Parliament. The job of your MP is to simply facilitate this process. It does not signal that they endorse the views of the petitioners. If they do not agree, [contact us](#). We have a number of MPs who will be pleased to present your petition, but they will need the original petition to do so.
- **Only give the original Paper Petition to an MP who has agreed to present it.** Phone or write the MP to make your request. Meet with them, if you can. Ask them to please present your petition within 45 days of receiving it.
- **[Contact us](#) and let us know when you gave your completed petition to an MP**, along with the name of the MP who agreed to present it in the House. We will then track the progress of the petition through the Government process.

#### 5. What happens after you give your MP your Petition?

- The MP will send your petition to the Clerk of Petitions for review. If your petition does not meet all the requirements, the Clerk will send it back to the MP with an explanation. The MP should contact you and provide you with this explanation.
- When the MP presents your certified Petition in the House of Commons, it appears in the [Journals](#) for that day, which documents the presentation. The names and contact information of the petitioner and the signatories will not be made public.
- If your petition does not appear in the Journals or on the Petitions website, we will follow up with you to let you know. We can then discuss if you would like to follow-up with your MP, or we can do that.

#### 6. Response from the Government of Canada

- The government *is required* to respond to every petition presented in the House of Commons within 45 calendar days (or at the next sitting of the House). The response will be posted on the [Petitions website](#) along with the Petition as soon as possible after the response has been formally presented. Here is an example of a Paper Petition presented last year in [Waterloo by MP Bardish Chagger](#), with the response from the Government of Canada.

#### 7. Volunteers are part of our Coalition Canada Paper Petition Campaign team

- Please feel free to contact us any time with any questions or concerns. We have a team of people who are happy to work with you to support your efforts to make this an enjoyable and informative experience for both you and the people you ask to sign the petition.