

## SETTING UP LOBBY MEETINGS

This is a reminder to start booking your lobby meetings for **Thursday, April 27 anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**

For this to work well, **follow these steps:**

1. Collaborate with anyone else you are attending the conference with, and **figure out which issue or issues you want to meet with MPs and Senators on.** The main issues we are focussing the conference on are:
  - a. Pre-born human rights, especially support for Bill C-311 and protection for pregnant women,
  - b. Assisted suicide, especially support for Bill C-314 to end the expansion of assisted suicide to those with mental illness, and
  - c. Sexual exploitation, especially support for Bills S-210 and Bill C-270 and Bill C-308, in order to protect kids from exploitation.
2. Once you've settled on which issue or issues to focus on, **pick the various MPs and Senators who you want to meet with.** It's good to aim for 5 or 6 meetings in the day, knowing that it's probable one or two will get cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances the week of the event.

### Who do you pick to meet with?

1. The best person to start with is your **own Member of Parliament.** If you don't know who that is, you can [click here](#) to find out by Postal Code. Usually, an MP is happy to meet with their constituents. Don't forget to remind them you want to meet them in Ottawa.
2. Try also meet with **any MP who might be interested in the topic.** For example, if you're concerned about protecting pregnant women, any of the MPs who sit on the Status of Women committee might be willing to talk about that issue. If you need suggestions, please contact Ed / Levi / Ryan, ARPA Canada's Ontario / BC / Prairies manager for other suggestions.
3. **Don't forget about Senators!** Senators also have a say in the development of law in Parliament and may be willing to meet with citizens to talk about these issues.

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How do you set up the meeting?

1. Once you have a list of who you want to meet with, **send an email to their Ottawa office**. You can find Members of Parliament contact information [here](#), and Senators contact information [here](#).
2. When you ask for a meeting, indicate **what date** you'd like to meet (Thursday, April 27th), on **what issue** generally, and **why** you want to meet this particular MP or Senator on this issue. (In other words, it shouldn't be random.) Ask for no more than 30 minutes of their time.
3. MPs and Senators are very busy people. **If they do not respond to your email right away, that's okay**. You can send a very polite follow up three or four days later if you have not yet heard back from them. If three or four days later you still have not heard back, try phoning the Ottawa office to set up the meeting. If the answer is that it won't work, accept that and move on.
4. Please remember that when **you are lobbying**, you are NOT lobbying on behalf of ARPA Canada, but **as a Canadian citizen**, or, perhaps, if representing a local ARPA chapter on behalf of that local chapter.