



# SPEAK UP!

POLITICAL ACTION BOOK



Nice to meet you!



## Introduction

ARPA Canada is about action. Action inspires action! We strive to educate, equip, and encourage like-minded Christians to political action. This Speak Up booklet is meant to do just that. It provides you with opportunities to be politically engaged in the public square and reach out to your political representatives, fellow Christians, and the public.

ARPA Canada is about grassroots. ARPA is you. The ideas in this booklet come from you. They are from the grassroots, by the grassroots, and for the grassroots. They are meant to help you and your friends be a shining light on political issues in the communities and ridings God where has placed you.

ARPA Canada is about perspective. Political engagement is about bringing a Biblical perspective to our civil authorities. Our nation is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law. It is our hope and prayer that your Christian witness in the public square will result in policies that reflect Biblical truth, justice, and righteousness.

ARPA Canada is about honour. Political engagement in the public square is about honouring the authorities that God has placed over us. Always be respectful and polite. Phrase even your strongest criticism with grace. Remember that you are an ambassador of Christ.

The ideas in this booklet may always be tweaked and reworked. Feel free to expand on them. Ask others for ways to improve them. The most important thing is to be active dual citizens, citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven and citizens of the Dominion of Canada.

The ARPA Canada grassroots team is here to help. If you reach out, we will do our very best to assist in any way we can. We want to hear from you. Please share pictures and stories with us so that we can share them across the country. Remember, your action inspires more action!

May God bless our efforts so that all may recognize the supremacy of God, and may He keep our land glorious and free.

REACH OUT TO YOUR

# POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES

Our system of government has three levels, each with different responsibilities and political representatives. The federal government is in charge of things like criminal justice. Our federal political representatives are Members of Parliament (MPs) and Senators. Our provincial governments are in charge of things like health care and education. Our provincial political representatives are Members of Provincial Parliaments (MPPs) or Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs). And finally, we have local governments that are responsible for roads, building permits, and school districts. Our local political representatives are Mayors, Councillors, and School Trustees.



- At the end of your Bible study, encourage everyone to take 5 minutes to call their political representative about an issue.
- Host a letter-writing evening to engage your political representatives on a current issue ARPA Canada is dealing with.
- Collect signatures on a post-sized thank-you card to present to your political representative.
- Give your political representative a small but thoughtful gift like baking, flowers, or a Christmas card.
- Write hand-written letters to your political representative. Do this on a recurring basis (e.g. 4 times a year) for added effect!
- Launch a phone blitz on an issue to your political representatives. ARPA Canada's OnePagers ([arpacanada.ca/one-pagers](http://arpacanada.ca/one-pagers)) are great to get you started on an issue.
- Send your (new) political representative a congratulatory note after a nomination, election, or leadership victory.
- Send your political representative a thank you note when they do something laudable like introduce a good bill, mention their faith publicly, or stand up on a controversial issue.
- Take part in the 12-Step Action Plan ([arpacanada.ca/12-step-action-plan](http://arpacanada.ca/12-step-action-plan)) to build a relationship with your representative.
- Attend public hearings at your local council meeting, school board meetings, or legislative committees. If there is a chance to speak, take it!
- Go with a group and take a tour of your provincial legislative assembly or town hall and try to get a photo with your political representative.
- Write a social media message and tag your political representative.
- Invite your local political representative to speak to your ARPA chapter meeting or give a high school presentation.
- Host a coffee social for your political representative in your home or church and invite members of your congregation to come out for an informal discussion.
- Attend the March for Life and prayer service at your provincial legislature or in Ottawa.

REACH OUT TO

# FELLOW CHRISTIANS



- Identify like-minded churches and then:
  - Invite them to an ARPA event;
  - Ask them to distribute flyers, postcards, or petitions with you;
- Organize a local action evening to write letters to the editor or postcards to political representatives.
- Collect signatures for petitions from your church or school.
- Create and distribute an election guide to let others know where candidates stand on important issues. This is especially helpful during local elections!
- Invite a political representative to speak to your church, school, or study group.
- Encourage youth to design art, design a T-shirt, or create a video promoting a political issue.
- Present to student assemblies or host a speaker for the assembly.

Start your political conversations with a question. Invite the person to dialogue by genuinely inquiring about how they come to their conclusions on these issues. By asking lots of questions, you can uncover assumptions and positions in an engaging way.

- Host a prayer meeting for a pressing political issue.
- Host a theme day, week, or month for your school for the We Need A Law, Care Not Kill, or Let Kids Be campaigns.
- Join an ARPA chapter or ARPA school club in your area or start an ARPA chapter or school club if there isn't already a local one.
- Sign up to be an ARPA church rep for your church.
- Share event announcements through your church social or email.
- Create an ARPA information bulletin board at your church or school.
- Send ARPA's weekly prayer calendar ([prayer.arpacanada.ca](http://prayer.arpacanada.ca)) to your church and pastor.

- Offer to hold an ARPA presentation or event at your church, school, bible study or small group.

- Host a video screening on a pertinent political issue.



# REACH OUT TO THE PUBLIC



- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper.
- Distribute postcards, flyers, and infographics in your neighbourhood.
- Organize a bus to the local March for Life.
- Do a Signs Up display somewhere in your community using Care Not Kill signs, or We Need A Law signs, or Freedom Banners. Reach out to your provincial representative for more information.
- Create a display representing the number of abortions in Canada each year with flags, haybales, crosses, electric candles, or flowers.
- Design a float with a positive message for a local parade.
- Organize a bike ride rally with flags and balloons with messaging to promote life or another political issue.
- Fundraise for social media ads.

Always remember to be polite. Phrase your statements with grace. Remember that you are a representative of Christ.

- Fundraise to run an ad on a local radio station.
- Fundraise for large scale advertisements (billboard, bus benches, transit shelters, buses, subways, airplane banner, hot air balloon, parked transport trailers, etc.)
- Host a speaking event (or all candidates evening) inviting political representatives and others to draw people from outside the Reformed Christian community.
- Host a community prayer breakfast.
- Organize a debate on a political issue that is open to the public.





**The Association for Reformed Political Action (ARPA) Canada is a grassroots Christian political advocacy organization.**

The mission of ARPA Canada is to educate, equip, and encourage Reformed Christians to political action, and to bring a biblical perspective to our civil authorities.

Go to [profiles.arpacanada.ca](https://profiles.arpacanada.ca) for more ideas and sign up for and manage newsletter subscriptions.

We hope we can inspire you  
to political action!





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