



# PETITIONS

## Process for Making a Petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

April 3, 2024

At ACO’s 2024 Heritage Day at Queen’s Park, we had three key “asks”

**1. Five-year Extension for Listed Buildings:** Extend the expiry date for listed buildings to Jan. 1, 2030. This would reduce the burden on municipalities to adhere to the current date of Jan. 1, 2025.

**2. Create Housing-focused Heritage Building Grant**

**3. Amend Provincial Policy Statement**

**Ask #1, the five-year extension, is the focus for this petition campaign because it:**

- Requires action by the Legislative Assembly (amending the Ontario Heritage Act),
- Reduces burden on municipal staff, heritage committees and councils, and
- Is time-sensitive (some 36,000 buildings will lose municipal heritage protection in less than nine months).

# PETITIONS

A petition is addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and asks the Legislature to act on or change its position on an issue.

- The Legislative Assembly website shows the standard [format](#) for a petition, which must be submitted in hard copy. We will send out a draft petition in word which you can adapt to your local priorities.
- An MPP (not the Speaker or a Minister) must present the petition to the Legislative Assembly.
- If they present them during a regular meeting of the House, the petition is recorded in Hansard and the official record of proceedings (Votes and Proceedings).
- The government must file a response within **24 sitting days** of the presentation of the petition. They give the response to the Clerk and the MPP who presented the petition.

Collecting signatures for a petition is easiest to do when you know your audience already cares about heritage. You can collect signatures at:

- An ACO branch meeting
- A municipal heritage committee meeting
- A heritage award ceremony
- Doors Open
- Jane's Walk or a heritage tour

# CONTACTING MPP

Once you have some signatures, you should contact your MPP and arrange to get the hard copy petition to them to present in the Assembly. The sooner the petition is presented, the sooner the government **must respond** to it.

A list of constituency offices can be found [here](#) – as a constituent, you should contact this office first and arrange to deliver the hard copy petition to them.

- If your MPP is a Minister, you can ask his or her constituency office to suggest another MPP to present the petition.
- You can also ask the constituency office to let you know when the petition is presented in the Assembly.
- Petitions are presented in the House and recorded in Hansard, so you can also monitor that section of [Hansard](#).



# TIMING

The government must respond to a petition in the Assembly within 24 sitting days. The [2024 spring session](#) is scheduled to last until June 13.

April 18 is therefore the last sitting day that should guarantee a response from the government (24 sitting days before June 13).

However, any petition submitted by June 13 will be recorded in Hansard and will support the overall campaign for the extension of municipal heritage protections.

When you have sent your petition to an MPP, please email [GCRC@ACONTARIO.CA](mailto:GCRC@ACONTARIO.CA) so we can track the initiative.

Good luck!