

7 TIPS FOR A GREAT MLA MEETING*

LOBBYING YOUR MLA

Setting up a meeting with your MLA can be intimidating if you've never done it before. But remember, they are just normal people, and it is their job to listen to your concerns before making a decision that will affect you. You have a right to speak with them. If you don't know how to contact your MLA, just call the RITE line toll-free from anywhere in the province to find out: 310-0000.

- 1. Stay on topic.** Your goal is to let your representative know why your pension is important to you: it's money being taken out of your pocket! If you have another issue, save it – you're there to talk about your pension. Don't let your MLA change the subject either.
- 2. Share your story.** Your politician should know how their decision on pensions is going to affect your life and the members of your family and the community. Do the pension changes make you feel less valued as a public employee? Does it make your compensation less competitive? Is it making you or your colleagues consider leaving the public service?
- 3. Be polite, but firm.** It's okay to express your emotions in your meeting, but never launch personal attacks against an MLA. You can tell them if their decision will influence how you work and vote in the next election.
- 4. Don't go alone.** Bring a co-worker, friend or family member to provide moral support.
- 5. Take notes.** At the outset, indicate you may take notes, so you can share your MLA's position with your colleagues.
- 6. Bring information with you.** Download material from the Truth About Alberta Pensions website: <http://www.truthaboutalbertapensions.ca> or from the AUPE website: <http://www.aupe.org/pension-updates/> Bring it along. It's good to be prepared. But remember, you do not need to be a pension expert. You are an expert on what your pension means to you. You don't need to know the details of your pension and the changes being proposed.
- 7. Share your experience.** Once you've met with your MLA, encourage your friends on the worksite to do the same. You can walk them through the process and give them tips. Let us know what you learned and what your MLA told you.

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Or call: (780) 483-3021(Edmonton); or 1-800 – 661-3995 (toll free).

* With thanks to AUPE