

Petitioning the British Columbia Legislative Assembly

Residents of the Province of British Columbia have the right to petition their legislators.

A petition is a request that the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia take some specific action (or refrain from taking some action) to redress an alleged public grievance. The action requested must be within the scope of jurisdiction of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly, and the request must be clear, concise, accurate and temperate.

Form and Content

A petition must be addressed to the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in Legislature Assembled (a template is attached). Petitions addressed to the Government of British Columbia or to a particular minister cannot be accepted.

Petitions must be written, typewritten or printed, and it is recommended that the paper be standard letter or legal size.

If a petition consists of more than one sheet of signatures, the text of the petition must appear at the top of each sheet. Each person petitioning the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia must print his or her name and address and sign his or her name under the text of the petition.

A petition must contain a minimum of four signatures and original signatures only, written directly on the face of the petition and not pasted or transferred to it. Petitions must be free of erasures or insertions. Petitioners must be residents of the Province of British Columbia.

No petition can be received which requests any expenditure, grant or charge on the public revenue, whether payable out of the consolidated revenue fund or out of moneys to be provided by the Legislative Assembly.

A petition, on being presented and meeting the requirements of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, is recorded in the Votes and Proceedings.

Presentation

A petition may only be presented by a Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, and it must comply with the requirements above before the Member may present it.

SAMPLE PETITION

*To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in
Legislature Assembled:*

The petition of the undersigned, _____, of the
_____, states that: [*here state the object of the petition, briefly
setting forth the reasons therefor*].

Your petitioners respectfully request that the Honourable House [*take such action as
may be deemed appropriate*].

Dated _____ day of _____, 20__ .

Name (printed)

Address (printed)

Signature