



Public Engagement

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There are many approaches you can use to engage in public advocacy to protect free speech in Canada that reject Islamophobia, hate speech, or intolerance from the extreme right or left. Here are only a few suggestions. Please feel free to add to this list and to share your thoughts with C3RF.

- Write e-mails on an ongoing basis, to your Member of Parliament and to candidates of other political parties in your riding who want your vote.
- Ask for meetings with him/her and with members of the opposition in your own riding to express your concerns. Alert them to the fact that you speak for others in your riding. Do involve the Office Manager/Policy Advisor who will likely read your material and brief upwards. If your presentation is effective, your material and concerns will likely be shared.
- Join your Electoral District Association and get involved in community work that engages others on this critical issue to safeguard Canada's future.
- Meet with and talk to your MP's Chief of Staff and staff members. Engage with them and with everyone you can – on an ongoing basis - about the urgent need to safeguard our freedom of speech – including in the media, in arts and culture, on web-sites, *etc.*, under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Explain the redundancy of M-103.
- Ask questions calmly; do not 'attack'. The wrong tone of voice or body language will offend and will ensure that your own credibility and future access are destroyed. Rather than appearing to 'lecture' our MP or his/her staff, pose well-organized constructive questions designed to elicit positive undertakings.
- Sample comments/questions to evoke discussion: "May I share with you who coined the term 'Islamophobia'?" What does it mean for free speech (blasphemy laws) in the 40 countries where it is law? Why do you think Islamophobia is the same as anti-Semitism? Why are so many secular, progressive and moderate Muslims terrified by the thought that Sharia law would be implemented here in Canada? Why do you think Muslims are at risk of hates crimes – they are three times more numerous than Jews, yet suffer one third the number of hate crimes? Is it true that the most reported and verified hate crimes are against Jews than people of colour than gays and only further down the list are Muslims?"
- Ensure that your listener understands the distinction between freedom of speech and expression, versus hate-incitement (*e.g.* by radical Islamists, neo-Nazis, KKK, white supremacists, BLM, racists, and others – including orally on the web, and in social media).
- Volunteer to work for the political party that shares your perspectives - if even by stuffing envelopes and making phone calls.

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- Organize get-togethers “over coffee” to discuss the above and other strategies with your friends, families and colleagues.
- Participate in such get-togethers, webinars, seminars, and conferences – such as those coordinated by C3RF.
- Support political candidates who share your perspectives - with financial donations and volunteer time.
- Support volunteer and charitable organizations that share your perspectives - with financial donations and volunteer time, and stay informed by reading their regular briefs.
- Stay informed by subscribing online to UN Watch, Middle East Forum, Palestinian Media Watch, Jihad Watch, Gatestone, ACT! For Canada, B’nai Brith, CIJA, *etc.*
- Talk to others. The majority of the public is ill-informed about M-103. Many of us have personal credibility among our workmates, book clubs, activity groups, houses of worship and friends. Find opportunities to download and offer them the C3RF pamphlet “What is M-103?”. Share your concerns with them, ensuring that they understand the sort and long term losses to Canadians rights and freedoms if limits to our rights to express ourselves in any form is furthered through motions, petitions and legislation.
- Write letters to the press; call in to radio shows. Express your concerns and perspectives.
- Write to your MPPs, City officials, and call them on a regular basis.
- Sign on-petitions that call for equal consideration for all Canadians, without singling out any, identifiable group for special consideration.
- Remain engaged and informed. Encourage your families and friends to do the same on an ongoing basis. Those who say “well, what can one person do?” need only look to Raoul Wallenberg, Chiune Sugihara, Irena Sendler, Martin Luther King. Remind them how much time they spend on personal activities and how 15 minutes of public advocacy each week, by hundreds of people, does make a difference. Remind them that if they do nothing, or “rely on others to do the right thing”, they may be offering tacit support to those with whom they disagree – to those who represent a threat to their grand-children’s rights and freedoms.
- Commit to stay engaged for the rest of your lives. Read even when you’re on holiday. You may “take a vacation” but the radicals who want to harm us, do not. Stay informed. Read from many news sources, so as to learn others’ perspectives.
- Don’t give up, even when you’re tired or demoralized. Stay informed.

