

# **Our Time to Lead**

**Building Public Support for Motion M-1:  
a Green New Deal for Canada**

## What is a Motion?

[According to the House of Commons](#), a motion is “a proposal moved by a member for the House or a committee **to do something, to order something to be done, or to express an opinion about some matter.**” A motion is not a bill or piece of legislation but can serve to lay a foundation for either.

## What is Motion M-1: A Green New Deal for Canada?

MP Peter Julian’s Motion M-1: Green New Deal for Canada is the very first Private Member’s Motion filed in this 43rd Parliament and the first initiative at the House of Commons that calls on the House of Commons to support the creation of a Green New Deal— a historic 10-year national mobilization that would achieve carbon neutrality; create millions of good, high-wage jobs; promote justice and equity; and protect and enforce the sovereignty and land rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

**This motion is a HUGE victory and proves that keeping the pressure on our elected leaders is working.** The fact that it is the first motion filed in the 43rd Parliament and includes all [four pillars](#) that we called for speaks to the power of our movement.

**You can read the full text of the motion [here](#).**

## Tell me about the petition in support of Motion M-1

Together, with Green New Deal champion Peter Julian, a petition has been created in support of Motion M-1. A petition to the House of Commons, deemed admissible by the Petitions Clerk, is addressed to the Government of Canada. Once received by MPs, they will be readied by the Petitions Clerk and then presented by MPs in Parliament. It is a great way for members of the public to communicate directly with the Government of the day. Once the petitions are tabled, it triggers automatically a government response within 45 calendar days to every petition referred to it. Petitions are a great tool for political pressure and input, a way to influence policy-making, and a means of bringing public concerns directly to the attention of our elected leaders.

The petition that has been written in support of Motion M-1 is a way for us to tell our elected representatives that we support Motion M-1 and that we are demanding they move it forward and govern for a made-in-Canada Green New Deal.

All motions are submitted to the Private Member's Business Office at the House of Commons, without being presented or read out in Parliament. That means the petition is one of the primary tools we have to force our elected representatives to talk about the Green New Deal in the House of Commons.

## What should I do with the petition?

A paper petition like the one in support of Motion M-1 only needs 25 signatures to be eligible to be presented in the House of Commons. That means that once you've gathered 25 handwritten signatures you can snail mail it postage free to MP Julian's Hill Office and/or you can deliver the signed petition to your local MP once they've agreed to support M-1 and demand that they:

- 1) Support the motion;**
- 2) Table the petition; and**
- 3) Commit to presenting it in the House of Commons.**

## Here's a step-by-step guide on how to deliver the petition:

### 1. Gather 25 petition signatures

This holiday season is the perfect time for you to collect as many petition signatures as possible in support of Motion M-1: Green New Deal for Canada! [Print out paper copies of the petition here](#) and **gather signatures at your workplace, community meetings, holiday parties, and anywhere else where you can talk to people about the Green New Deal.** Note that different rules apply for electronic petitions so your signatures must be gathered on paper. If people would like more information about the motion itself, or the process of having the petition presented in the House of Commons, you can direct them [here](#) and [here](#).

### 2. Decide who you will deliver your signatures to

You don't have to deliver petition signatures to your own MP, but can choose to deliver them to any MP in Canada. **To increase the likelihood that the petition is not only tabled, but also presented in the House of Commons, you might prefer to deliver your signatures to**

**an MP who has expressed support for bold climate action and M-1 for a Green New Deal.**

If you don't know whether there's a climate champion near you, you can consult our list [here](#). Alternatively, you may choose to meet with an MP who you believe needs to be pressured to take bolder action on the climate crisis. This is your opportunity to tell elected representatives that the Green New Deal is the only plan on the table to tackle the climate crisis, and is backed by your community!

**\*\*\* Please note that although the second page of the petition includes the address for Peter Julian's office you are welcome to edit it and address it to any MP of your choice. \*\*\***

### 3. Schedule a meeting or time for your delivery

Once you've decided who you'll deliver your signatures to, schedule a meeting with the MP. All MPs now have a parliamentary email: [firstname.lastname@parl.gc.ca](mailto:firstname.lastname@parl.gc.ca). Or you can stop by your chosen MP's constituency office to deliver the petition signatures, once the MP has agreed to present them in the House.

### 4. Deliver them!

If you're going with a team to deliver your signatures, meet up beforehand to discuss roles. You may want someone to take notes, record the delivery, and do some social media about it, but you can also go all on your own! Start by introducing yourselves and Our Time, and ask them whether they've heard of Motion M-1: Green New Deal for Canada. If they have, ask them whether they support the motion before explaining why it's so important to you. After speaking to the motion, hand over the petition signatures you've gathered and ask them to have them certified by the Petitions Clerk and then present them in the House of Commons as soon as possible (ask them also to give you an appointment date of when they will be presenting them in the House).

**If they declare their support for the Motion and agree to present the petition in the House of Commons,** ask them to take a photo with you and the petition (hiding the signatures of course!) and post it on social media with #OurTimeToLead. Don't give them the photo-op if they haven't earned it by agreeing to speak to the critical necessity of building a Green New Deal for Canada. [Here is an example of a photo you can take with your MP accepting the petition.](#)

**If they don't agree to table the petition signatures or present it in the House of Commons, record why.** This might look like just taking notes. If you're meeting with someone you expect might be condescending, dismissive or belligerent, try to be prepared to record the interaction. Recording this interaction is important because it can create

public pressure and criticism forcing their hand to respond. [The recording of Dianne Feinstein dismissing young school children](#) who asked her to take bold climate action and fight for their future went viral and she received public backlash for her dismissive behavior. You don't need to get a camera in their face, but could just have someone in the meeting pretend to text someone while recording, or have the meeting in a public place like a cafe where someone can easily record from a nearby table. ***If there isn't an agreement to not record a meeting before it starts, there is nothing morally or legally wrong with recording our politicians responses to hold them publicly accountable.***

**Finally, wrap up** by thanking them, seeing if they have questions, and agreeing to next steps. If they've agreed to present the petitions in the House of Commons, you may want to ask them more about how they plan to champion the Green New Deal while in office in this 43rd minority Parliament. If you feel confident that they're a true ally, consider asking them for advice on what ***you can do next*** to pressure MPs to begin building an ambitious Green New Deal for Canada and enshrining it with legislation.

## 5. Report back

**After the meeting, debrief** how it went (ideally immediately after), [log their response in this Report Back Form](#), and send an update in #mp-engagement if you're in the Our Time Slack. **Share a photo, video, or livestream** about how it went, using #OurTimeToLead and #GNDMotion. Be sure to post on Twitter because that's where the politicians and journalists live! Finally, if your MP was receptive and agreed to your demands, send an email thanking them for meeting with you and committing to your asks!

**Here are some examples of a post- meeting insta story:**



## 6. And REPEAT!

Remember, MPs only need **a minimum of 25 handwritten petition signatures** to table a petition and present it in the House of Commons. **That means every time you submit 25 signatures, you're buying more time for a Green New Deal to be discussed in the House of Commons.** You may want to deliver 25 signatures to different MPs across the city or show up repeatedly with new petition forms to turn up the pressure on lukewarm politicians. You can also provide climate champions ([like the ones on this list](#)) with as many reasons as possible to keep bringing up the Green New Deal in the House of Commons!