

# *Turn Debt Into Hope* Parliamentary Paper Petition Strategy

## From Global Petition to Parliamentary Action: The Next Step

Have you signed the *Turn Debt Into Hope* [online petition](#)? Great! This **parliamentary paper petition** is a vital next step in our debt justice movement. Building directly on the momentum of our global Jubilee campaign *Turn Debt Into Hope*, where we have gathered over 60,000 signatures (and counting) from across Canada for the global campaign, this complementary parliamentary petition helps translate broad public support into focused parliamentary action and direct parliamentary pressure this spring. Specifically, it allows Members of Parliament to read aloud the petition preamble and asks in the House of Commons.

## Building Momentum for Justice

**Our Strategic Timeline (January - April 2026):** We're launching a coordinated advocacy campaign with a clear 4-month strategy. From January to April 2026, we want the issue of the global debt crisis and ecological justice to be raised in the House of Commons regularly, with 10-15 different MPs presenting the parliamentary petition. We are building influence and creating ongoing parliamentary attention to stop the debt crisis and increase climate finance.

**April 28, 2026:** Our major public rally on Parliament Hill to deliver the Canadian signatures on the global *Turn Debt into Hope* petition. Amazing! As of January 23rd, we have over 63,753 signatures! Let's make sure the Cabinet knows about the growing public support for debt justice. And by April, our elected leaders will have learned more about the debt justice issue through your meetings with them, letters from their constituents and the parliamentary petition consistently raised in Parliament.

### Why This 4-Month Push is Crucial

- Creates sustained pressure on parliamentarians throughout the House of Commons session
- Builds media attention and public awareness
- Positions the April 28 rally as a powerful culmination of months of advocacy
- Shows our leaders that debt justice is an ongoing priority, not a one-time issue

## How the Parliamentary Petition Process Works

1. **Choose Your MP:** You can submit your petition to any Member of Parliament (MP) of your choice. You do not need to choose an MP who represents your electoral district—any MP can present a petition to the House of Commons.
2. **Present Your Request to the MP:** Contact the MP's office for a meeting and ask them to present the petition in the House of Commons. Please note that when an MP agrees to present a petition, they are facilitating citizens' voices to be heard in Parliament. Presenting a petition does not mean the MP endorses the views or information contained within it.
3. **MP Presentation in the House:** When the MP presents your petition, a record of the petition appears in the House of Commons Journals for that day, and the text of the petition and the total number of signatures are published on the official Petitions website.
4. **Government Response:** The Government of Canada must file a response to the petition presented in the House of Commons within 24 calendar days. This ensures accountability and provides citizens with an official response to their concerns.

## Every petition presentation matters in our 4-month strategy

- January - February: The first wave of MP meetings and the petitions are presented to establish the issue in Parliament
- March: Increase the frequency and expand the number of MPs presenting petitions
- April: Continue our MP meetings right up to our April 28 rally for maximum impact

**BIG QUESTION!** Can I sign this parliamentary petition if I have signed the *Turn Debt Into Hope* [online petition](#)? Yes! Please do! This petition has updated, focused calls to action about debt cancellation and climate finance specific to the Canadian federal government. **This petition is building on the *Turn Debt into Hope* campaign, creating a drumbeat of attention that our leaders cannot ignore.**

## Process to follow

- Download and print the parliamentary petition. See Important Notes below.
- Gather signatures (at least 30) from members of your community who support debt justice
- Contact your chosen MP to arrange a meeting
- Submit the completed petition to the MP's office
- Share your success with us so we can track momentum (see contacts below)

## Important Notes

- ☐ Every petition presentation counts toward our goal of 10-15 MP meetings by April 28. A meeting with your MP is an opportunity to educate them on the struggles facing people in the Global South, your concerns as a citizen and the positive impact of debt cancellation. You can arrange to meet with your MP in person or virtually. If you meet with your MP virtually, please arrange delivery of the paper petition with the MP's office.
- ☐ Citizens must submit the petition to an MP who has agreed to present it. If your MP is not accessible or willing, we will work to make sure we can use the petition in another riding.
- ☐ The petition must follow the technical requirements for parliamentary petitions. Use clean letter (8.5x11) or legal (8.5x14) paper. You can print the petition on a regular home printer. Both sides of the paper may be used. Do not modify the petition in any way before or after printing.
- ☐ The petition must be signed by at least 25 Canadian residents or citizens of any age. We recommend collecting at least 30 signatures, in case any signatures are deemed inadmissible. Everyone who signs the petition must fill in all information fields. All personal information of petitioners and signatories remains confidential. Please ensure that at least three signatures appear on the front page. Additional signatures may be collected on as many copies of page 2 as needed. The use of any address format is acceptable if it clearly establishes the place where the signatory resides. Additional contact information (phone number, email, etc.) is not required.

**Questions?** Contact Genevieve Gallant at ORCIE [ggallant@orcie.org](mailto:ggallant@orcie.org), Cheryl McNamara at KAIROS [cmcnamara@kairos.org](mailto:cmcnamara@kairos.org), or Kiegan Irish at Development and Peace-Caritas Canada [kirish@devp.org](mailto:kirish@devp.org).

**Thank you! By participating in this parliamentary petition, you are helping to complete the journey from broad public support to focused parliamentary action, building the momentum needed to make debt justice a priority for Canada's elected leaders.**