



Protocol for dialogue with politicians

Make Poverty History Manitoba is a non-partisan organization. It does not support any candidate or any political party seeking elected office. It does seek ongoing dialogue with all members of the community, including those seeking or holding office, on public policy issues.

Federal and provincial issues

Make Poverty History Manitoba recognizes three tiers of involvement with those seeking or holding office at the federal or provincial level.

Tier 1 – Representatives of Make Poverty History Manitoba are in dialogue with representatives of only one party.

Ceremonial event or non-partisan conference: MPHM may invite a Minister of the Crown of the government of the day to bring greetings to a ceremonial event or non-partisan conference. For example, both federal and provincial ministers brought greetings at the launch of the West End Commons. It's anticipated that ministers will briefly review their government's record on the issue at hand, but the invitation should include a request to refrain from seeking votes, attacking other parties or other overtly partisan comments.

Policy consultations: MPHM should offer all political parties an opportunity to discuss public policy issues of concern to MPHM members. (See Tier 3.) MPHM may meet individually with each of the parties that responds to the invitation.

Tier 2 – In the period between elections, representatives of Make Poverty History Manitoba are in dialogue with representatives of all political parties with at least one member of the Legislature.

Rallies or other major events: MPHM will inform representatives of all parties with representation in the Legislature of any rally or other major event being held at the Legislature or elsewhere. If a representative of one party is invited to speak, representatives of all parties in the Legislature will be invited to speak.

Policy consultations: Make Poverty History Manitoba will issue invitations to representatives of all political parties represented in the Legislature to discuss public policy issues of concern to MPHM members.

Written communications: Make Poverty History Manitoba will make available to all parties represented in the Legislature any written communications regarding public policy issues of concern to MPHM members, including reports, briefs, op-eds, and Fast Facts produced by MPHM or its members.

MPHM will treat all parties represented in the Legislature fairly in any written communications, including representing the positions of the parties accurately and being respectful even if disagreeing.

Tier 3 – In the six months prior to the expected date of an election, representatives of Make Poverty History Manitoba are in dialogue with representatives of political parties registered by Elections Manitoba and running candidates in at least 25 per cent of (14) provincial constituencies.

Election debates: Make Poverty History Manitoba will invite representatives of all political parties described above to participate in debates on public policy issues.

Rallies or other major events: MPHM will endeavour to inform representatives of all parties described above of any rally or other major event being held at the Legislature or elsewhere. If a representative of one party is invited to speak, representatives of all parties described above will be invited to speak.

Policy consultations: Make Poverty History Manitoba will issue invitations to representatives of all political parties described above to discuss public policy issues of concern to MPHM members.

Written communications: Make Poverty History Manitoba will make available to all parties described above any written communications regarding public policy issues of concern to MPHM members, including reports, briefs, op-eds, and Fast Facts produced by MPHM or its members.

MPHM will treat all parties described above fairly in any written communications, including representing the positions of the parties accurately and being respectful even if disagreeing.

City of Winnipeg issues

In its approach to City of Winnipeg issues, Make Poverty History Manitoba will endeavour to respect the spirit of non-partisanship outlined above by treating the Mayor and all City Councillors in the same way.

Election debate: If Make Poverty History Manitoba holds a forum or debate among candidates for mayor, all candidates for mayor will be invited.

Caveat

The steering committee of Make Poverty History Manitoba must approve and note in the minutes any deviation from this protocol, including any adjustments requested by member or partner groups.