



Speaking on Behalf of Animals

2022 Provincial Elections

During this electoral period, **be prepared to bring up the subject of animal protection with every candidate or party representative who calls you or shows up on your doorstep** to gain your support. Tell them this is an essential issue for you.

Afterward, be proactive. Participate in public debates, ask questions, express your concerns and, especially, contact the candidates directly to request a telephone conversation or an in-person meeting.

How to prepare for the discussion

1. Be well informed

Have rigorous facts, numbers and data on hand. Showcase experts' points of view on the issues you're discussing and include references to back you up.

In the wake of the October 3 provincial elections, please read our information sheets (in PDF format) as well as additional resources on our website:

- Animals and Housing: [information sheet](#) (French only) and [website](#)
- Dog Tethering: [information sheet](#) (French only) and [website](#)
- Fur Farms: [information sheet](#) (French only) and [website](#)

Learn about other issues regarding animal protection by viewing our [reform propositions regarding animal protection](#) all featured in one same document (French only).

Prepare counterarguments

The animal protection measures you hope to see adopted may be met with resistance, whether that be from lobbies or individuals. Being familiar, ahead of time, with common arguments often used by your opponents will help you formulate intelligent counterarguments to their statements in a debate or discussion. Bring facts to support your assertions and to aid you in answering your opponents in a convincing manner. Stay calm and courteous – this will add to your credibility.

Pore over election platforms

Look for any animal protection or animal welfare content that may be included in previous and current party platforms. Also, keep an eye on the [Montreal SPCA's social networks](#); in the coming weeks, we will be highlighting the parties' commitments to animal protection.

2. Present your requests in a strategic manner

Make sure you're speaking with the right level of government

Certain issues regarding animals are regulated by specific jurisdictions (municipal, provincial or federal level). Our above mentioned reform proposition document is a complete tool that will help you identify the most relevant issues to tackle at the provincial level.

Identify existing precedents as potential examples to follow

Highlight the progress of other provinces or countries where better animal protection regulations are already in place (our information sheets and shared documents can be useful for this). Inspire politicians by giving them compelling examples and by showing them the positive repercussions of these actions. In the absence of existing precedent on an issue, invite politicians to lead the way by being the first to implement positive change toward animal welfare.

Highlight additional benefits to society

Shine a light on the positive impacts your requests or propositions might have on other topics of public interest.

Showcase all economic or social advantages that may come from better animal protection. Is the matter you are raising also a public safety issue? An environmental issue? A public health issue? A social justice issue? Make it known.

Make constructive propositions

If there is no possibility of changing a law or regulation, or if your main request is refused, be prepared to follow up with other constructive and applicable requests. Are you proposing more education or awareness on the subject? If so, through which means? Would a better enforcement of the current regulations improve animal welfare? What are the current system's shortcomings you or other experts have noticed?

Prepare a short written summary

After an in-person meeting, leave a well-structured document with the politician or candidate resuming the main issues, the supporting data and sources, as well as your contact information. In the case of the present elections, don't hesitate to use our printable information sheets to this effect.

3. Finding allies and coordinating your actions

In order to find allies, gather the most information possible through newspaper articles, open letters, media statements and actions of animal protection organisations, etc. Seek out associations, professional orders (veterinarians, etc.) or any other group that could be in favour of the issues you're bringing up.

[Follow us on social media](#): in the coming months, the Montreal SPCA will propose coordinated actions to **unite the voices of citizens allied in the defense of animals**, echoing your willingness to participate in political change. Many of us believe animal protection is an essential issue, and it is thanks to our strength in numbers that we can provoke positive change for animals!

4. Celebrate the victories – even the small ones!

Even if improving animal protection is an urgent matter, every step in the right direction deserves to be highlighted. Politicians will be more receptive to you if you recognize any progress (however minor) already made on this issue, and explain why even more improvement is necessary.

A political victory sometimes requires making compromises.

Keep in mind that requests that are backed by significant public support can rapidly improve the fate of a large number of animals.

Who to contact regarding the 2022 provincial elections?

In addition to broaching the subject of animal protection with every candidate or representative of a party that communicates with you during the campaign, you can also directly contact the candidates to schedule a phone call or a meeting.

How?

- Start by identifying which [riding you live in](#).
- Then find each party candidates who represents your riding:
Below, you'll find a list, in alphabetical order, of parties with at least one Member of l'Assemblée nationale elected last term.
 - [Coalition Avenir Québec](#)
 - [Parti conservateur du Québec](#)
 - [Parti libéral du Québec](#)
 - [Parti québécois](#)
 - [Québec solidaire](#)
- If the candidate's email address cannot be found, directly contact the party's constituency office and ask them the name of the candidate representing you. **Sometimes, candidates also have a social media page where their team can answer you directly.**
- You can also contact them at the following addresses:
 - Coalition Avenir Québec : info@coalitionavenirquebec.org
 - Parti conservateur du Québec : info@conservateur.quebec
 - Parti libéral du Québec : info@plq.org
 - Parti québécois : info@pq.org
 - Québec Solidaire : info@quebecsolidaire.net

Don't forget the opposing parties; they can be important allies! Animal protection is a non-partisan issue. All parties can gain in improving their engagement to this matter.

Follow up

Note the issues towards which candidates or parties have been open or have made commitments. Be perseverant and follow-up on these commitments after the elections. Remind them of these issues regularly! Participate in public consultations that may be scheduled.

Have you communicated with candidates and received interesting answers or engagements?

Let us know by writing to defense@sPCA.com!