

# Processes for Raising Environmental Concerns

## **1. Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Municipalities and EBR**

<http://www.eco.on.ca/eng/index.php/pubs/ebr-documents/municipalities-and-the-ebr.php>

Ontario Petition: Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993, c28

2 Petition Processes:

1. Application for Review
2. Application for Investigation

Environmental Registry:

<http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/index.jsp?1=1&language=en>

## **2. Environmental Commissioner of Canada under the Auditor General of Canada**

[http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/pet\\_fs\\_e\\_919.html](http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/pet_fs_e_919.html)

Federal Petition process legislated under: [Auditor General Act, Section 22.](#)

Fisheries Act can be used for municipal water issues under federal petitions but not under the Ontario EBR:

- section 34(1), which describe the provisions to conserve and protect fish habitat that sustain Canada's fisheries resources,
- section 35(1), which prohibits the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of fish habitat,
- sections 36-42 which control the deposition of any deleterious substance to water frequented by fish

Petitions Guide:

[http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/pet\\_lp\\_e\\_930.html](http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/pet_lp_e_930.html)

Petitions Catalogue

[http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/pet\\_fs\\_e\\_929.html](http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/pet_fs_e_929.html)

## **3. Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)**

Municipal Issues as legislated under the OMB, Planning Act, etc.

<http://www.omb.gov.on.ca/english/home.html>

## **Alternative tools available**

- **Contact environmental organizations.** There are many non-governmental organizations that focus on maintaining or enhancing the environment. These organizations, for example those listed below, may be able to provide you with additional information or support related to your environmental concern:
  - [Canadian Environmental Network](#)
  - [Canadian Environmental Law Association](#)
  - [David Suzuki Foundation](#)
  - [Environmental Defence](#)
  - [First Nations Environmental Network](#)
  - [Friends of the Earth](#)
  - [Greenpeace Canada](#)
  - [Mining Watch Canada](#)
  - [Pollution Probe](#)
  - [Sierra Club of Canada](#)
  - [Ecojustice](#)
- **Contact your member of Parliament (MP).** This is a simple and direct way to communicate your questions or concerns to the federal government. To obtain contact information for your MP, consult the Parliament of Canada website.

[Parliament—list of MPs with links to contact information:

[http://www2.parl.gc.ca/parlinfo/Lists/Members.aspx?](http://www2.parl.gc.ca/parlinfo/Lists/Members.aspx?Parliament=0d5d5236-70f0-4a7e-8c96-68f985128af9&Current=True)

[Parliament=0d5d5236-70f0-4a7e-8c96-68f985128af9&Current=True \]](http://www2.parl.gc.ca/parlinfo/Lists/Members.aspx?Parliament=0d5d5236-70f0-4a7e-8c96-68f985128af9&Current=True)

If you do not know who your Member of Parliament is, you can find out here:

[Parliamentary website MP locator by postal code:

[http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC\]](http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC)

Members of Parliament can also provide guidelines for submitting petitions to the House of Commons. These petitions are signed by Canadian residents and addressed to the House of Commons by a member of Parliament. They must concern a subject within the authority of the Parliament of Canada, the House of Commons, or the Government of Canada. Such petitions must meet requirements established by the rules and practices of the House.

- **Contact the parliamentary committee responsible for your area(s) of concern.** The House of Commons and the Senate convene committees on distinct subjects, including areas related to the environment and sustainable development. For more information on parliamentary committees, you can visit the Committee Business page on the Canadian Parliament website.  
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/committee.asp?Language=E>
- **Consider the federal government's *Access to Information Act*.** The Act gives Canadians access to information held by federal departments responsible for their area of concern, with some exceptions. Each department has their own Access to Information and Privacy coordinators. For further information, refer to the following website, which lists the names and contact information

for all Access to Information and Privacy coordinators in federal departments and agencies.  
[http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/atip-aiprp/apps/coords/index\\_e.asp](http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/atip-aiprp/apps/coords/index_e.asp)

- **Examine the Citizen Submission on Enforcement Matters mechanism of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC).** This process enables the public to submit a request for review of any NAFTA partner when it appears to not be enforcing environmental law. Consult the CEC website at <http://www.cec.org/citizen/index.cfm?varlan=english>