



Fact Sheet No. 13 GENERAL PETITIONS

WHAT IS A GENERAL PETITION?

A general petition is a document that identifies a specific concern to Manitobans, and suggests a course of action or remedy to resolve that concern. The document is signed by residents of the province, and addressed to the Legislature.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL PETITION PREPARATION

According to the Rules, Orders and Forms of Proceeding of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, a general petition must be specifically formatted in order to be accepted by the House.

There are three basic petition components: The **address**, the **body** and the **request**. The document must be free of erasures, insertions, deletions or attachments. It may not request the spending of public funds, and must have a minimum of 15 signatures; complete with the full address of each signatory. The names and addresses of the first 15 petitioners must be legible.

WHO MAY PRESENT A PETITION TO THE LEGISLATURE?

Private individuals or organizations may prepare petitions and bring them to the attention of the Legislative Assembly. Presentation, however, must be done by a Member of the Legislative Assembly. The Speaker of the House may not present petitions.

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE

A general petition must be filed with the Clerk or Clerk Assistant/Journals Clerk at least 24 hours before the MLA intends to present it to the House.

The name of the MLA is then listed on the official House agenda or Order Paper under the heading "Petitions." When the Speaker calls that item during Routine Proceedings, the MLA may present the petition from their place in the House by reading the full text of the petition. When the MLA reads the petition, it is deemed to be received by the House. There is no debate allowed during the presentation of a petition. If the petition is not presented that day, it remains on the Order Paper until presented.

FURTHER INFORMATION

"General Petition - Guidelines for presenting to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba," an information package outlining specific procedural requirements, is available from the Journals Clerk. (204) 945-6331 or by viewing the Legislative Assembly Internet site at:

http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/business/petition_guidelines.html