



Talking points for an email to your MP

Choose one or two points from each section to include in your message to your MP. Choose something that resonates with you or that you think will particularly draw your MP's attention:

Talking points that illustrate the needs:

- Access to clean water and sanitation is a human right. This right is not being met for over 2 billion people around the globe.
- According to the most recent UN World Water Development Report, 2.1 billion people still lack safely managed drinking water, with women and girls bearing the heaviest burden. Women and girls are most often responsible for collecting and managing water for their households, exposing them to physical strain, lost education and livelihoods, health risks, and heightened vulnerability to gender-based violence — particularly where services are unsafe or unreliable.
- Globally, women and girls spend a total of 250 million hours every day collecting water, time that could otherwise be spent on education, leisure, or income-generating activities. Access to WASH is key to gender equality.
- According to the WHO, unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene are responsible for the deaths of 1,000 children under five every day. These deaths are preventable.
- Around the world, every two seconds, a woman gives birth in a health centre without clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene. Without clean water, mothers and babies die from infections that are entirely preventable.
- Climate change is making it harder for millions to access safe water. Canada can help.

Talking points that illustrate the benefits of investing in WASH:

- WASH saves lives.
- WASH is essential to health, and also to good nutrition, education, gender equality, economic development, climate resilience, and peace.
- WASH builds resilience to climate change.

- Clean water, decent toilets, and good hygiene support all aspects of development.
- Integrating more WASH into Canada’s international development efforts is a good investment for reaching the poorest and most marginalized and supporting gender equality.
- WASH is a smart and strategic investment. Investing in climate-resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene delivers high economic returns by reducing future humanitarian spending, stabilizing key trade regions, and protecting supply chains that Canadian industries rely on.
- WASH services improve affordability and productivity. Reliable water and sanitation services lower household and public costs by reducing time lost to water collection, lowering healthcare expenses, and enabling greater workforce participation—especially for women.
- WASH strengthens public health systems and economic resilience. Access to safe water and hygiene reduces disease burden, strengthens health systems, and supports a healthier, more productive workforce.

Tips for composing your email:

It should be short and to the point. And personal to you.

If you’re not sure how to begin your message, try...

I am a constituent and member of the Grandmothers Advocacy Network (GRAN) and I am writing you today because I care about climate change/global health/gender equality/Canada’s role in the world (*choose one or two*). Specifically, I would like to raise my concerns about global access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Or...

I am a constituent and member of the Grandmothers Advocacy Network (GRAN) and I am writing you today about Canada’s commitment to Sustainable Development Goal #6: Clean Water and Sanitation. At present levels of funding, the world is nowhere close to achieving this goal by 2030. Canada can do more.

Make sure to include this “ask” in your email:

Please champion increased investment in WASH as a strategic component of Canada’s international assistance, and ensure climate-resilient WASH is prioritized within Canada’s climate finance to support economic stability and resilience.

We suggest you download [this bilingual backgrounder](#) and include it as an attachment to your email to encourage your MP to learn more about this issue.

When signing your message, remember to include your city and postal code to confirm you are a constituent.

Thank you, GRANs, for your voices!